Daily Report

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Kapllani Meets With Foreign Officials in Moscow

AU1309141191 Tirana ATA in English 0820 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Text] Tirana, September 13 (ATA)—The minister of foreign affairs of the republic of Albania, Muhamet Kapllani, who takes part in the proceedings of the third CSCE Conference on Human Dimension which is conducting its proceedings in Moscow, met with the minister of foreign affairs of Netherlands and chairman of the European Community, Hans van den Broeck, with whom he held a long constructive talk. During the talk, responding to Van den Broeck's concern on the situation in Albania, the Albanian minister spoke on the political and economic reforms dwelling on the difficulties of country is actually undergoing and on the importance our side devotes to the cooperation in the European Community from which it expects perceptible and concrete results. On his part, Van den Broeck pointed out that there is a growing concern and commitment of the European Community to help Albania carry out the reforms. The two ministers dwelt particularly on the situation in Yugoslavia and Kosovo expressing the concern for the grave crisis, which menaces peace in the Balkans and Europe. They voiced their hope that the peace conference on Yugoslavia to continue in The Hague will focus on the necessity of the participation of the Albanians, without whom and against their interests, as the Albanian minister said, there can be no genuine solution of this crisis.

Likewise, the foreign minister Muhamet Kapllani met with the minister of foreign affairs of the FRG, Hans-Dietrich Genscher.

Speaking of the relations between the two countries, which assumed a new impulse especially after Mr. Genscher's visit to Albania, the two ministers laid the stress on the indispensability of their further development and extension. Another step toward the materialisation of these relations and their institutionalization through the signing of new contracts, will mark the coming visit of the Albanian minister in Bonn. With regard to the Yugoslav crisis they spoke of the indispensability of participation of all parties interested in determining upon the future of this country. Leaving the Albanians outside the solution of the Yugoslav crisis, Mr. Genscher said, means to start everything from the very beginning.

Minister Muhamet Kapllani had a friendly constructive talk also with the leader of the US delegation, Max Kampelman who took special interest in the situation in Albania and the promotion of democratic processes. He reiterated the US readiness to help Albania on the democratisation road. The US side said that the Yugoslav crisis in general and the situation in Kosovo in particular have direct impact on the situation in Albania.

In the meeting with the head of the British delegation and Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd, after speaking of the actual level of bilateral relations, both parties pointed out that possibilities exist to forge them ahead. Both parties should make efforts to solve even any pending problem. They voiced their optimism for the future of the relations between Albania and Great Britain.

Alia Receives Pakistani Senate Delegation

AU1509161291 Tirana ATA in English 0802 GMT 15 Sep 91

[Text] Tirana, September 15 (ATA)—The president of the Republic of Albania, Ramiz Alia, received on September 14 at the Palace of Brigades the delegation of the Pakistani Senate headed by Dr. Noor Jehan Panezai [name as received], deputy chairwoman of this senate.

President Ramiz Alia assessed their visit to Albania as important for the relations between the two countries, which serves both the acquaintance and exchange of parliamentary experience and the further rapprochement of the Albanian people and the Pakistani one. He acquainted the parliamentarians from Pakistan with the political, economic and social transformations taking place in Albania of late as well as with some problems and difficulties, mainly economic ones, which have emerged in this period of transition. The president voiced his optimism in overcoming these difficulties by mobilizing all the material and human possibilities, as well as through the aids of the other states, of the European community, EEC, the U.S.A., which "are positively predisposed to help Albania," he said.

The deputy chairman of the Pakistani Senate, Mrs. Noor Jehan Panezai, expressed her joy over this meeting with the president of Albania. It was also the desire of our president and premier, she said, that we visit this friendly country and convey their greetings to you. She also voiced her gratefulness to the Albanian people and government for their support to Pakistan regarding its international question. Mrs. Noor Jehan Panezai and the other members of the delegation assessed the meetings and talks in Albania, the exchange of views to carry forward the relations between the two countries in the fields of economy, trade, culture, etc., as very fruitful.

During the talk, President Ramiz Alia pointed to the spiritual and historic similarities of the Albanian people and the Pakistani one, and spoke of the great possibilities existing to strengthen and raise them at a higher level, increasing the exchanges in various fields.

Views were exchanged at the meeting also on international problems of mutual interest.

Alia on Official Visit to Hungary, Finland, France

AU1509151491 Tirana Radio Tirana Network in Albanian 1330 GMT 15 Sep 91

[Text] Ramiz Alia, president of the Republic of Albania, left today for a short official and friendly visit to Hungary. As has been reported, he will continue his journey to Finland and France, where he will sign on behalf of

Albania the Helsinki Act and the Paris Charter, which will confirm Albania's official CSCE membership.

He was seen off at Rinas Airport by Kastriot Islami, chairman of the Presidium of the People's Assembly; Premier Ylli Bufi; Deputy Premier Gramoz Pashko; Aleksander Meksi and Lush Perpali, deputy chairmen of the Presidium of the People's Assembly; deputies, members of the government, personalities from the country's political and social life, and so forth.

Karoly (?Leinszek) charge d'affaires ad interim of the Hungarian Embassy in Tirana, and (?Serge Segura) charge d'affaires ad interim of the French Embassy in Tirana, were also present.

Statement Before Departure

AU1509185491 Tirana ATA in English 1806 GMT 15 Sep 91

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Prior to his departure, the president of the Republic of Albania, Ramiz Alia responded as follows to the question of the TV reporter on the aim of his visit, the targets he had for this visit and [word indistinct] the acts of the agreements to be signed on behalf of (?Albania).

"This visit is important in three respects: First, I go to sign the fundamental Helsinki Acts, as is the act and Paris Charter. Albania's membership to the CSCE was an important event testifying to the victories of democracy in our country. The signing of these acts now are Albania's commitment to march consistently on the road of democratisation and integration towards Europe. Secondly, during this visit I shall have the opportunity to meet with the heads of states of Hungary, Finland, France and other leaders of these countries, with whom I shall discuss on the question of the promotion of mutual relations between our country and these three friendly countries. Thirdly, meeting the main leaders of these three friendly countries I shall have the possibility to forward also the Albanian viewpoint on the Kosovo question, which is the most important problem for Albanians on this and that side of the border. Therefore, I consider this visit a very important political visit for the present and future of our country."

Arrival in Budapest

AU1509185691 Tirana ATA in English 1810 GMT 15 Sep 91

[Text] Tirana, September 15 (ATA)—The president of the Republic of Albania, Ramiz Alia, and the delegation accompanying him arrived in Budapest on an official and friendly visit. The Albanian president had talks with the Hungarian president Arpad Goncz and the Premier Jozsef Antall at the parliament seat of the Republic of Hungary. During the talks they treated problems of the relations between the two countries as well as political questions of the situation in the Balkans and beyond.

Further information on these two meetings will be given in the coming broadcasts.

Pashko Departs for Brussels Roundtable

AU1509185891 Tirana ATA in English 1812 GMT 15 Sep 91

[Text] Tirana, September 15 (ATA)—A government delegation, headed by the deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers and minister of economy, Dr. Gramoz Pashko, and a group of specialists of various fields left for Brussels on September 15 to attend the "round table" on Albania.

At the Rinas Airport the delegation was seen off by the deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, Zydi Pepa; the secretary general of the Council of Ministers, Dr. Teodor Kareco; the minister of public order, Bajram Yzeiri; the minister of education, Maqo Lakrori, and others.

Bufi Signs Agreements on Aid, Cooperation in Italy

AU1309144091 Tirana ATA in English 0902 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Text] Tirana, September 13 (ATA)—The chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Albania, Ylli Bufi, arrived on a friendly working visit to Italy on September 12. He is accompanied by the minister of finances, Genc Ruli, the minister of culture, youth and sports, Prec Zogaj and the foreign deputy minister Ilir Bocka. From the airport of Champino, the Albanian delegation went to the prime ministerial palace Chigi where he was received by the Premier Andreotti. The reception was attended from the Albanian party by the premier Ylli Bufi, the deputy minister Gramoz Pashko, the minister for foreign economic relations, Ylli Cabiri, the minister of mineral sources and energy, Drini Mezini and others. From the Italian party it was attended also by the deputy premier Claudio Martelli, the foreign minister De Michelis, the minister of immigration Margherita Boniver and the interior minister Vincenzo Scotti. In the end of the talks, a series of agreements were signed between the two delegations.

For the Albanian party the agreements were signed by the premier Ylli Bufi, the deputy premier Gramoz Pashko and the minister of culture, youth and sports, Prec Zogaj. Whereas for the Italian party the agreements were signed by the Premier Andreotti and the foreign minister De Michelis. These agreements envisage emergency aids within a short period of time. They include food first necessity aids until the end of December to the tune of 113 billion liras, emergency aids in the field of education and didactic equipments to the tune of 5 billion liras. In this framework the Italian Government plays an important role in urging the aids from the European Community.

Likewise the agreements envisage bilateral and multilateral aids in the Albanian balance sheet of payments. On the bilateral plane the aid worth 30 billion liras will be used to programme and finance the Albanian imports. This agreement envisages the granting of a further credit worth 30 billion liras to finance the supplies of imports from Italy.

Parallel with this Italy will continue to engage itself in reaching an agreement between the European Community and Albania for trade and economic cooperation favouring the integration of Albanian economy into that of community. The agreements also foresee short, mid and long term cooperation activities. In this context the Italian Government is committed in guaranteeing a financial backing to realize the programs in the sectors of infrastructure, energy, agriculture, telecommunications, tourism, transport, etc, on facilitating conditions estimated to 30 billion liras for 1992, 40 billion liras for 1993 and 50 billion liras for 1994. The agreement which also foresees cooperation between ENI [National Hydrocarbons Corporation] and the Ministry of Energy Mining Resources of Albania, the discovery and exploitation of oil and gas resources in the coastal areas of Albania, was signed on September 11, 1991.

In the afternoon Ylli Bufi met also with representatives of different Italian state and private firms. In this meeting he laid the stress on the readiness to cooperation and translate into life the designs and agreements that have been signed.

The Albanian delegation headed by Ylli Bufi was received at the presidential palace by the Italian President Francesco Cossiga. Participating in the dinner given on September 12 by the Albanian ambassador Dashnor Dervishi at the Albanian Embassy seat in Rome were members of the two government delegations, personalities and other guests. The reception passed in a warm and friendly atmosphere.

'Tens of Thousands' Attend Anticommunist Rally

AU1509150491 Tirana Radio Tirana Network in Albanian 1800 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Report by Timo Luto—recorded]

[Text] At 1800 this afternoon, the Democratic Party, the Republican Party, the Social Democratic Party, and the Union of Independent Albanian Trade Unions organized a rally in Skenderbeg Square in support of the demands raised in their joint declaration issued a short time ago.

The tens of thousands of residents of the capital city who filled the square held aloft red national flags without the red star, the symbol of communism, as well as slogans demanding the more determined advance of democratic processes in Albania, prosecution of all those who brought misery to the Albanian people, and the destruction of the monist administration of the communist dictatorship.

The rally began with a rendering of the national anthem as the national flag without a red star was hoisted, at which the thousands of demonstrators enthusiastically shouted and cheered. Ylli Vejsiu, chairman of the Democratic Party's Tirana branch, opened the rally. Neritan Ceka, member of the Democratic Party's Managing Committee, greeted the rally on behalf of the Democratic Party. In his speech, he expressed the party's determination in its struggle to carry forward democratic processes and to always remain loyal to the Albanian people's democratic aspirations. He expressed his confidence in the inevitable victory of democracy, which is guaranteed by the democratic spirit of the Albanian people and their deep hatred of Enver Hoxha's 50-year dictatorship, which led the people to unimaginable misery. He stressed once again this party's determination and insistence on the fulfillment of the demands contained in the three opposition parties' joint declaration.

Zef Bushati, Republican Party deputy chairman, then greeted the rally on behalf of the Republican Party and stressed the need to destroy communism in Albania along with its symbols and to prosecute all those who have committed abuses at the people's expense. He said we will strive to make democracy a genuine reality throughout Albania and will insist on this to the end, without the slightest concession.

Sefedin Xhemalce greeted the rally on behalf of the Social Democratic Party and said that we still have a long road to travel before reaching genuine democracy. The opposition parties, he said, are united in the struggle against communism until it is totally destroyed. He called for the renewal of the Foreign Ministry and the dismissal of all the directors of directorates and ambassadors appointed by the monist system, as well as the removal of the directors of radio, television, and ATA.

Hysni Bardhi, chairman of the Tirana Branch of the Union of Independent Albanian Trade Unions [BSPSh], greeted the rally on behalf of the BSPSh and concentrated on the need to carry out economic reform and privatization as soon as possible. He supported our Kosovar brothers in their struggle for freedom and national dignity.

Gjergj Titani greeted the rally on behalf of the Association of Political Prisoners and hailed all those who had brought democracy to Albania and rescued the prisoners and all Albanians from the communist inferno. We welcomed democracy with inconceivable emotion, he said. It released us from a prison-state, through whose jails thousands of innocent people passed.

Amid the enthusiasm of those attending the rally, Azem Hajdari, member of the Democratic Party's Managing Committee, then mounted the rostrum. He said that Albania cannot move toward Europe without establishing genuine democracy, uprooting communism, and getting rid of the past. Communism, he said, cannot be uprooted without the renewal of the highest organs of the state, including the present legislature, which has

become an obstacle to democracy. He stressed the need for early elections for a new People's Assembly. He emphasized that the Democratic Party is against communism but not against honest communists, who have nothing in common with those who drank the blood of the people and must be brought before the court of the people. He demanded their immediate arrest.

At this point, the rally ended. The rally was held in proper order and the people dispersed peacefully.

Seek Alia's Resignation

AU1409201091 Paris AFP in English 1954 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Text] Belgrade, Sept 14 (AFP)—Fifty thousand people demonstrated in the Albanian capital Tirana Saturday to back calls for the resignation of President Ramiz Alia, opposition deputy Besnik Mustafaj told AFP by telephone from Tirana.

The protesters also called for the disbanding of the secret police and the arrest of former communist dictator Enver Hoxha's widow, Nexhmije.

The crowd waved Albanian flags without the communist red star, and called for the symbol to be removed from the national flag, said Mustafaj.

"We can't talk about democracy when the head of state is a communist, as well as the parliamentary chief, the prime minister and the minister for foreign affairs," said the head of the Democratic Party, Neritan Ceka.

The three principal opposition parties, which organized the rally along with independent trade unions, are members of a communist-dominated coalition government which took office following the communists' victory in Albania's first free elections.

Demand Past Leaders' Arrest

AU1509151091 Tirana ATA in English 0808 GMT 15 Sep 91

[Text] Tirana, September 15 (ATA)—About 100,000 inhabitants of Tirana organised at the Skenderbeg Square in Tirana a peaceful rally yesterday afternoon, upon the initiative of the Democratic, Republican, Social Democratic parties in support to their demands put up in the joint statement. The participants held small national flags without the star as well as various posters, which read "The people want law and order;" "The dictators are doomed to failure;" "The blockmen [former residents of leadership compound] to the people's court;" "Kosovo—republic;" etc.

While the wind orchestra was playing the national anthem of the Republic of Albania, two children hoisted the national flag without the star at the flagstaff near the monument of the national hero Gjergj Kastrioti Skenderbeg.

The rally was declared open by the chairman of the Steering Commission of the Democratic Party for Tirana, Deputy Prof. Dr. Ylli Vejsiu, who said among others that it is a great joy for all of us to organise this long expected rally by the democratic people of Tirana, waving the Albanian flag that Skenderbeg, Ismail Qemali, and Fan Noli left us as the sacred will of national pride, freedom, and democracy, cleaned from the Stalinist star. The democratisation process will be considered completed when the setting up of the legal state is over.

On behalf of the Democratic Party, the floor was taken by the member of the Steering Commission of this party, Deputy Neritan Ceka, who stressed among others that our nation, one of the most ancient nations of the Balkans and Europe, who love democracy and will combat to forge it ahead, is a cultured people. The Democratic Party, he said, is an opposition party that combats and will combat in the future too for the establishment of genuine democracy and freedom in Albania, for uprooting once and for all communism from Albania, for dissolving the State Security Service, etc.

On behalf of the Republican Party the floor was taken by its vice-chairman, Zef Bushati, who pointed out that it is up to the People's Assembly, government, and the president to legalize the removal of the antinational symbols, and in case they do not do it since the first sitting of the People's Assembly, we shall gather again here, in this square, and will not move from here unless this request is met. The Republicans, he said, are determined to the end to do away with the communist management in the Radio-TV, the ATA, and Foreign Ministry. They ask also the dissolution of the State Security Service.

On behalf of the Social Democratic Party, the floor was taken by Sefedin Xhemalce, chairman of the Tirana branch, who asked among others that the mass media, radio and television, ATA, local radios, and newspapers do not censor the free democratic thinking, the bringing to the court of the blockmen who have abused and stolen at the expense of the people be not procrastinated, all civilians be disarmed, all political prisoners be granted innocence, etc.

Then the floor was taken by the representative of the Union of Independent Trade Unions of Albania, Hysni Bardhi, who asked among others that government meets the twelve forwarded demands. On behalf of the Political Prisoners' Association, the floor was taken by Gjergj Titani, who repeated the request of this association for granting the rights to the former political prisoners and internees.

At the end of the rally spoke also the member of the Steering Commission of the Democratic Party, Deputy Azem Hajdari. Among others he appealed to the president and the government to open as soon as possible the schools and universities. Addressing the people of the capital, he said that you are on the forefront of the struggle for democracy. You should carry through this with culture, tranquility and democratic means, he underscored.

He appealed that till October 15 Nexhmije Hoxha, Sulo Gradeci, and the former blockmen, who have abused the people's property, blood, and sweat, be sent to the bar. Likewise, he appealed the participants to disperse in order and tranquility to manifest that the people of the capital is a cultured people, who do not burn and destroy.

Rally To Support 3 Opposition Parties' Statement

AU1309124791 Tirana ATA in English 1159 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Text] Tirana, September 13 (ATA)—On September 13, a rally was organized in front of "Migjeni" theater in the city of Shkoder by the branches of the Democratic, Republican and Social Democratic Parties, in support of the joint statement of these parties.

The rally was declared open by Qemal Uruci, secretary of the branch of the district Democratic Party. Then the chairmen of the branches of the Democratic Party, of the Republican Party and Social Democratic Party, Pjeter Arbnori, Xhevat Repishti and Neki Lezha respectively spoke. They said that cooperation amongst the opposition forces is a new higher stage of the political struggle to uproot communism and to speed up the democratic reforms, to make Albania as the whole Europe. The speakers reiterated the known demands of the joint statements of the three opposition parties. They also called on for social peace and tranquillity in the democratic developments .

In his speech the member of the steering committee of the Democratic Party Azem Hajdari said that the demands of the joint statement of the opposition parties are vital in the current circumstances of the democratic processes. It was the single party system with its Eastern countries allies that left the country in a miserable state he said. In the democratic processes that are forging ahead, he laid the stress on the need of applying the laws and at the same time invited those present for work, for social tranquillity and peace.

The deputy of the DP Abdi Baleta and the compatriot from Shkoder Kol Mehilli, residing in the USA, greeted the rally. The meeting was held conform the law.

Unit 4 of Kozloduy Power Plant Shut Down

AU1409194891 Sofia BTA in English 1930 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Text] Sofia, September 14 (BTA)—At 11 o'clock today the generating unit 4 of the Kozloduy Power Plant was stopped for repair, a Civil Defence official told BTA. The reason for this is a leakage of radioactive water from a pump a few days ago.

According to a source who wished to remain anonymous, the reactor will resume operation on September 23. There are fears that the stoppage of the unit may result in power shortages next week.

Sixth Reactor Capacity Increased

AU1609095191 Sofia Khorizont Radio Network in Bulgarian 0900 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] Our reporter Veselin Angelov reports that the capacity of the 1,000-megawatt sixth reactor of the Kozloduy Nuclear Plant was increased from 30 percent to 50 percent. Thus, the reactivation program is being implemented in stages, until the reactor's full capacity is activated.

By increasing the reactor's capacity to 50 percent, the shortage of power caused by the shutdown of the fourth reactor will be compensated for. The shutdown was caused by the leak of steam in the main circulation pump, which was the result of damaged isolation in one of the connections. This was pointed out by Engineer Kiril Nikolov, chairman of the Nuclear Power Supply Economic Trust.

The shutdown was effected by a decision of the Committee on Power Supply and will continue until 23 September. Until then, a team of experts will perform the necessary isolation repairs of the circulation pump. Afterward, the reactor will be activated.

Mr. Nikolov assured us that there is no danger of a radioactive leak. The radiation level in the vicinity of the nuclear plant is normal, within the permissible limits.

Tomov Meets Shevardnadze, Kobets in Moscow

AU1309204091 Sofia BTA in English 1946 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Report by BTA correspondent in Moscow]

[Text] Moscow, September 13—Deputy Prime Minister Aleksandur Tomov arrived on a business visit here. He conferred with ex-Foreign Minister Shevarnadze and with Russia's Minister of Defense General Konstantin Kobets.

Mr. Tomov said that Mr. Shevarnadze had familiarized him with the correlation of political forces in the USSR. Gen. Kobets had told him that the State Council of the USSR is about to discuss a new military doctrine which will be the first step towards the establishment of a new structure of the Soviet Armed Forces.

Mr. Tomov said that one of the major motives of his visit is the need to preserve the contacts necessary for the success of the economic reform in Bulgaria; he singled out energy supplies. According to Mr. Tomov, it now depends mainly on the President of the Russian Federation, Boris Yeltsin, whether the Soviet Union's major agreements with Bulgaria will be taken over by Russia.

Continued Oil Supplies Assured

AU1409180691 Sofia BTA in English 1630 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Text] Sofia, September 14 (BTA)—After his brief unofficial visit to the Soviet Union Mr. Aleksandur Tomov, deputy prime minister, told the press today that the danger of Bulgarian-Soviet relations coming to a standstill in this difficult period has been averted. In Moscow Mr. Tomov had meetings with Eduard Shevardnadze, Aleksandr Yakovlev, Russian Minister of Defence Konstantin Kobets and top executives of the oil-processing industry.

Mr. Tomov, who seemed pleased with the results of his visit, said that the Soviet Union would continue to supply Bulgaria with oil and energy resources. "However, Bulgaria should take additional measures in this respect," Mr. Tomov stressed.

Mr. Tomov said that he had learnt details about the coup attempt and the current situation in the Soviet Union.

Popov, Vulkov, Parliament Recognize Macedonia

AU1309185291 Sofia BTA in English 1750 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Text] Sofia, September 13 (BTA)—Bulgaria will recognize Macedonia's statehood and welcomes the processes there, Mr. Filip Ishpekov, chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on Foreign Policy, told the BTA.

This was announced after an hour and a half meeting of Prime Minister Dimitur Popov, the Minister of Foreign Affairs Viktor Vulkov and the Chairmen of the Parliamentary Committee on Foreign Policy and on National Security. The idea of the meeting was to coordinate the stands on the crisis in Yugoslavia.

Popov Comments on Coming Balkan Talks on SFRY

AU1309174991 Sofia BTA in English 1722 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Text] Sofia, September 13 (BTA)—"No talks can be held, no commitments assumed and no agreements reached at the expense of any people or state," Bulgaria's Prime Minister Dimitur Popov told BTA in connection with the meeting due to be held in Athens on September 19.

"The meeting in Athens will not be concerned with government attitudes," Mr. Popov stressed. "It will give politicians a chance to consider the complicated problems related to the developments in Yugoslavia. I think that the idea of the talks is to seek a political solution to the Yugoslav crisis. At the same time, this meeting does not give credit to Mr. Milosevic in any way," Mr. Popov said.

Zhelev Wants Macedonia at Athens Summit on SFRY

AU1409181091 Sofia BTA in English 1747 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Text] Sofia, September 14 (BTA)—"If any problems related to Macedonia are put on the agenda of the forthcoming meeting of the leaders of Greece, Bulgaria and Serbia, proposed by Greek Prime Minister Konstandinos Mitsotakis, the Bulgarian delegation will refuse to take part in such a discussion held in the absence of Macedonian representatives," Bulgarian President Zhelyu Zhelev said in an interview on national television tonight. "Justice, democracy and ethics require that the meeting be attended by Macedonian officials," Dr. Zhelev stressed.

President Zhelev welcomed Mr. Mitsotakis's idea of a tripartite meeting on Yugoslavia's problems but said that he personally was confused by the fact that only Greece, Serbia and Bulgaria had been invited and that the meeting follows closely the referendum in Macedonia. "This raises suspicions that the meeting will centre on the problems of Macedonia and its future," Dr. Zhelev said.

Dr. Zhelev stressed that it is improper to consider Macedonian problems behind its back, the more so as it had already expressed its political will.

"We unconditionally recognize the right of the Republic of Macedonia to exist as an independent state, but we cannot recognize the existence of a Macedonian nation," Dr. Zhelev said. "We have every reason not to accept the idea of a Macedonian nation. This idea is completely in the spirit of the Comintern although it is much older. It has provoked territorial claims on Pirin Macedonia and on Aegean Macedonia in Greece but these claims are ungrounded," President Zhelev said.

Dr. Zhelev expressed Bulgaria's readiness to cooperate with the Republic of Macedonia in politics, economy and culture to an extent that would render the existence of borders a pure formality. Such is Bulgaria's policy towards all its neighbours. "I am deeply convinced that this is the road that all Balkan countries should take. Western Europe is the model towards which they should aspire. They have no other alternative," Dr. Zhelev said.

Dr. Zhelev expressed his concern over the situation in Yugoslavia. In view of the present developments, there is a real danger of Yugoslavia turning into a totally ruined "Balkan Lebanon."

President Zhelev said he was worried that violence may spread to other countries as well.

Dr. Zhelev recalled Bulgaria's foreign policy main principle: not to take advantage of Yugoslavia's present difficulties. "So far, Bulgaria has also stuck to its other principle of non-intervention in Yugoslavia's home affairs. Unlike some other countries, Bulgaria did not put its Army on heightened alert because it does not want to increase further the tension in the Balkans or to help the conservative forces in Yugoslavia justify their aggressiveness and the violence with external factors," President Zhelev said.

Legislature Adopts Amendments to Electoral Act

AU1309114591 Sofia BTA in English 1041 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Text] Sofia, September 13 (BTA)—32 parties and coalitions have registered with the Central Electoral Commission until yesterday. Today is the deadline for registration of parties which will run in the elections scheduled for October 13.

After heated debates, parliament passed new amendments to the Electoral Act late last night. The act had already been amended twice: First when it was debated after the president vetoed it, and second, after the disputes among the political forces on the methods of allocation of seats.

Yesterday MP's of the Union of Democratic Forces Centre [SDS Center], SDS Liberals, the Nikola Petkov Bulgarian National Agrarian Union insisted on an amendment allowing stripes of different colours on colour ballot papers. The debates in parliament followed a decision by the Central Electoral Commission to register the blue ballot paper with the Union of Democratic Forces (SDS). However, the SDS Centre and the SDS Liberals—coalitions of parties and organizations which left the SDS—also lay a claim to this colour. The Nikola Petkov Bulgarian National Agrarian Union which decided to quit the SDS some ten days ago and run in the elections on its own stakes a claim to the green ballot paper. The red colour was contested by the Bulgarian Socialist Party (BSP) and the Bulgarian Communist Party. It has already been registered with the BSP.

The sponsors of the draft of the amendment to the Electoral Act suggested yesterday that if colour stripes are allowed on colour ballot papers, the disputes will be settled. However, the Legislative Committee believed this amendment would make registration more complicated, that it would take more time and might even cause the elections to be postponed. The sponsors' draft was voted down but an amendment was passed allowing more combinations of colour stripes on a white ballot paper.

The President and Vice President Elections Act was passed on first reading yesterday. Under the Constitution, the presidential elections should be held within three months after the parliamentary elections.

Under the Bar Act, which was also passed, this institution is completely independent of the state and the Ministry of Justice.

Kostov Says SDS Will Not Join Left Coalition

AU1509210291 Sofia BTA in English 1648 GMT 15 Sep 91

[Text] Sofia, September 15 (BTA)—"If a leftist cabinet is formed after the elections the opposition ministers from the now acting cabinet will refuse to participate in it," Mr. Ivan Kostov, minister of finance, said in the "Nedelya 150" programme of the national radio today.

Mr. Kostov said he felt optimistic after this week's meeting between the president and leaders of the Union of Democratic Forces (SDS) whose splinter groups would run in the elections independently. Mr. Kostov believes that a project government will be formed which will be supported by a political coalition of the opposition forces without the participation of the Bulgarian Socialist Party. Mr. Kostov said that this is an achievable goal.

The meeting with the president was requested by the three opposition ministers in the acting cabinet: Mr. Dimitur Ludzhev, deputy prime minister, Mr. Ivan Kostov, minister of finance and Mr. Ivan Pushkarov, minister of industry, trade and services. The three ministers are concerned over the future of the economic reform, and as Mr. Kostov said, over the conduct of certain leaders who call themselves opposition. The participants in the meeting reached an agreement which raises hopes that the opposition forces will do their best to further overhaul the system.

Mr. Kostov is one of the authors of the economic chapter of the SDS election platform. "This platform is a clear expression of the SDS rightist democratic orientation," Mr. Kostov stressed. According to him, the main preconditions for replacing Bulgaria's system are a turn to the right and a liberal economic policy, which, however, does not mean playing on human instincts. "I call this priority of rightist reason over leftist emotions," Mr. Kostov said.

Paper Publishes Agreement of SDS Member Parties

AU1409155891 Sofia DEMOKRATSIYA in Bulgarian 10 Sep 91 p 1

[Text of political agreement between member parties of the Union of Democratic Forces, adopted at Union of Democratic Forces Coordinating Council meeting on 9 September]

[Text] 1. The parties and organizations—members of the Union of Democratic Forces [SDS]—confirm their participation in the SDS. The SDS coalition was formed and exists to strengthen the values of democracy. The SDS is for changing the country's economic and political system, and for guaranteeing human rights and the freedoms of citizens. The SDS will defend the interests of all free citizens and Bulgarian families and will strengthen the national interests of the Republic of Bulgaria. The SDS is for rapid restitution and privatization, for a market economy, and for the freeing of our country of all the consequences of communist rule. We declare ourselves for the confiscation of the property of the Bulgarian Socialist Party/Bulgarian Communist Party [BSP/BCP] and for bringing to trial those responsible for Bulgaria's present national catastrophe. The SDS will create conditions so that all universal human and cultural values in the spheres of science, education, and culture can flourish. We stand for freeing the whole of our social, economic, and cultural life from its previous communization.

2. The parties and organizations signatory to this agreement nominate joint candidates in the legislative elections. They will mount a unified election campaign based on the SDS program, ideas, and values. The SDS is for a tolerant, civilized, and ethical election campaign, and once more recommends these values to all democratic parties and organizations in Bulgaria. In the local elections, the SDS proposes cooperation with all democratic political forces.

3. The SDS will continue to exist as a coalition until the next elections. In the National Assembly, the union will be represented by one legislative group—the SDS.

4. The SDS will not enter into a government coalition with the BSP/BCP and addresses this appeal to all the other democratic parties and organizations in Bulgaria.

5. The SDS is for unity of action in the legislature and in the future government between all democratic political forces.

6. Every SDS candidate for the legislature assumes a moral commitment, in the event of his or her leaving the SDS legislative group, to reconsider the mandate of his member of parliament as well.

[Signed] For the Bulgarian Social Democratic Party, Iv. Kurtev; Green Party, Khr. Biserov; Democratic Party, St. Savov; United Democratic Center, St. Ganev; Radical Democratic Party, Prof. Elka Konstantinova; Alternative Social Liberal Party, Prof. N. Vasilev; Ecoglasnost Independent Association, E. Sugarev; Federation of Clubs for Democracy, Y. Vasilev; Civic Initiative Movement, L. Sobadzhiev; "Spasenie" Christian Union, Father Khr. Subev. (The signature on behalf of the "Spasenie" Christian Union remains valid, provided the signatory implements the SDS National Conference resolution on eliminating Zhivkovist ecclesiastical nomenklatura and does not work behind the back of the "Spasenie" Christian Union in the negotiations with the

Holy Synod!); Union of the Repressed, Iv. Nevrokopski; Federation of Independent Student Associations, R. Ruskov; Independent Association for Defense of Human Rights, N. Kolev-Bosiya; Christian Democratic Front, Sv. Spasova; Union of Free Democrats, K. Dukov; New Social Democratic Party, Dr. V. Mikhaylov (who has a reservation regarding item 5 of the agreement, which fails to specify which democratic forces are present in the legislature); Bulgarian Democratic Front, V. Zlatarov; Republican Party, B. Velkov; and the "Roma" Union, M. Romanov.

Finance Minister Runs on SDS-Movement Ticket

AU1309195091 Sofia Khorizont Radio Network in Bulgarian 1900 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Text] Ivan Kostov, minister of finance, is number one on the Union of Democratic Forces-Movement [SDS-Movment] list of candidates for the forthcoming parliamentary elections in Plovdiv.

The candidates of the SDS-Center are headed by Petur Kornazhev, and those of the SDS-Liberals by our colleague, the journalist Aglaya Shamlieva.

The Socialists have evidently decided that Nora Ananieva at the head of the red coalition may have a positive influence on the eligibility of their candidates in the city of Plovdiv, which is reputed to be a stronghold of the opposition.

BSP Renounces Coalition With ERA-3

AU1309195191 Sofia BTA in English 1852 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Text] Sofia, September 13 (BTA)—The BSP [Bulgarian Socialist Party] canceled its coalition with Era-3 unilaterally on the night of September 12, just before the last day of registration for the elections. Through fax messages the BSP revised the already approved nominations and renounced its signature on the agreement, says a declaration of Era-3.

Era-3 believes that the Supreme Council of the BSP acts under the pretext of differences within the leadership. "This is a Zhivkov-style game with the other political forces which ignores the opinion of the rank-and-file party members," the declaration says.

DPS Threatens To Boycott Elections

AU1409194091 Sofia BTA in English 1945 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Text] Sofia, September 14 (BTA)—The Movement for Rights and Freedoms (DPS), led by Mr. Ahmed Dogan, threatens to boycott the elections and to declare them illegitimate if the Supreme Court or parliament decides to bar the movement from the elections.

Today the DPS sent a protest declaration to the Central Electoral Commission, the U.S. Embassy in Sofia and to the embassies of the European Community countries.

The declaration accuses the parliamentary faction of the Bulgarian Socialist Party of misinterpreting the Electoral Law, the Political Parties' Act and the Constitution.

On Monday the Supreme Court will pass judgement on a complaint lodged by 30 MP's. The MP's argue that the registration of the DPS is inconsistent with Bulgarian law. However, according to Ms. Ganeta Minkova, spokeswoman for the Central Electoral Commission, there has been no violation of the law. Ms. Minkova said that the 30 MP's are misinterpreting the Electoral Law.

BZNS-United, Constitutional Forum Sign Pact

AU1409173591 Sofia OTECHESTVEN VESTNIK in Bulgarian 9 Sep 91 p 1

[OTECHESTVEN VESTNIK staff report: "Great and Small Form Coalition"]

[Text] In the next legislature, the Bulgarian National Agrarian Union-United [BZNS-United] and the Bulgarian Constitutional Forum will form a joint parliamentary group, and the BZNS-United will include the forum's candidates in its list of election candidates. At a closed meeting [on 7 September], the BZNS-United Administrative Council approved a political agreement for cooperation with the Bulgarian Constitutional Forum.

Prof. Nikolay Genchev will not be among the candidates. He stated on the Panorama television program that, at the moment, he attaches more importance to his duties as rector of Sofia's Kliment Okhridski University. The forum's representatives will head the party lists in Stara Zagora, Mikhaylovgrad, Sofia, and other towns.

The following BZNS-United leaders will almost certainly stand as parliamentary candidates: Viktor Vulkov (heading the lists in Pleven and Sofia); Ivan Glushkov (Vratsa and Sofia); Tsenko Barev (Veliko Turnovo and Sofia Okrug); and Yosif Petrov (Varna and Silistra). The approved election lists can be changed if the Nikola Petkov BZNS accepts the written invitation of the BZNS-United to form an election coalition. This was stated by Lazar Stoychev, the union's spokesman and a member of its Administrative Council.

Ecoglasnost Association Declares Support for SDS

AU1409181691 Sofia DEMOKRATSIYA in Bulgarian 10 Sep 91 p 2

[Declaration of the Executive Council of the Ecoglasnost Independent Association, issued in Sofia on 9 September 1991]

[Text] The Executive Council of the Ecoglasnost Independent Association declares Ecoglasnost's affiliation to the Union of Democratic Forces [SDS].

In the coming election, Ecoglasnost will support the SDS and calls upon all its members and sympathizers to vote with the blue ballot.

We believe that only with the support of the SDS will we be instrumental in changing the communist system and turning Bulgaria into a normal state.

9 September 1991, Sofia
[signed] E. Sugarev, chairman of the Executive Council of the Ecoglasnost Independent Association

Fatherland Labor Party: No Coalition With BSP

AU1309154691 Sofia DEMOKRATSIYA in Bulgarian 9 Sep 91 p 2

[Report by Nedyalko Delchev from Khaskovo: "The Fatherland Party of Labor Rejects Deals With Communists"]

[Text] Khaskovo, 8 September—At yesterday's extraordinary National Conference of the Fatherland Party of Labor, 43 delegates representing 31 municipal and nine regional organizations voted no-cofidence in the party's leadership. They stated in a declaration that the members of the Fatherland Party of Labor categorically oppose the coalition with the Bulgarian Socialist Party. The delegates declared the alliance as invalid. Rumen Popov was relieved of his post as chairman of the party. In addition to the disbanding of the entire National Coordinating Council of the Fatherland Party of Labor, Deputy Chairmen Gincho Pavlov and Mincho Minchev were relieved. The conference elected a provisional leadership headed by Pavel Strandzhev as chairman and Aleksandur Vasilev as spokesman, which is in charge of convening an extraordinary congress.

Dienstbier Receives PRC Minister Qian Qichen

LD1509112891 Prague Ceskoslovensky Rozhlas Radio Network in Slovak 1100 GMT 15 Sep 91

[Text] PRC Foreign Minister Qian Qichen arrived in Czechoslovakia today for an official visit at the invitation of Jiri Dienstbier, federal deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs. The guest was welcomed at the Ruzyne airport by Martin Palous, deputy foreign minister, and the two immediately held consultations focusing on economic matters. In view of the collapse of markets in the former CEMA countries, many Czechoslovak products could, according to Martin Palous, find a market in China. Apart from bilateral talks, both sides are also expected to discuss international relations, especially in connection with the situation in the Soviet Union.

Trade, Ties Discussed

LD1609055791 Prague CTK in English 1921 GMT 15 Sep 91

[Text] Prague Sept 15 (CTK)—The Czechoslovak and Chinese foreign ministers, Jiri Dienstbier and Qian Qichen, today confirmed their countries' interest in developing Czechoslovak-Chinese trade.

Qichen, who arrived here today for a three-day official visit, appreciated the quality of Czechoslovak goods, especially lorries, engineering products and energy industry equipment.

Dienstbier praised China's positive attitude to the question of Iraq's departure from Kuwait when it was discussed by the U.N. Security Council.

He also welcomed that China is considering signing the nuclear non-proliferation treaty.

Dienstbier and Qichen discussed the issues of Taiwan and Tibet.

They noted with satisfaction that tension in Cambodia and on the Korean Peninsula has eased.

Qichen expressed apprehension of instability in the Soviet Union and of complications which may stem from the deployment of nuclear weapons in Soviet republics.

PRC Ambassador Comments

LD1609032391 Prague Federal 1 Television Network in Czech 1730 GMT 15 Sep 91

[Text] Chinese Minister of Foreign Affairs Qian Qichen arrived in Czechoslovakia today for an official visit. On the eve of this official visit, Chinese Ambassador Wang Xingda granted an interview to Czechoslovak Television:

[Wang Xingda, in Chinese fading to Czech translation] Our Foreign Minister Mr. Qian Qichen's visit is, in my view, an event of great significance for the development of Czechoslovak-Chinese relations. Both sides will be given an opportunity to exchange views on various issues of common interest. Our government puts great emphasis on maintaining and strengthening normal state relations with Czechoslovakia. It appreciates, in particular, the promising dynamic development of trade contacts. I think that there are no fundamental conflicts of interest between the Chinese Republic and your republic and that further development of bilateral relations does not only correspond to the two countries' common needs and interests but also contributes to stability in the world. I am convinced that the visit of our foreign minister will be successful. Allow me now through the Czechoslovak Television to send cordial greetings to the citizens of this country.

Walesa Arrives in Prague; Talks With Havel Start

LD1609092791 Prague Ceskoslovensky Rozhlas Radio Network in Czech 0830 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] Polish President Lech Walesa arrived today for a state visit to Czechoslovakia; he was invited by the Republic's President Vaclav Havel. Walesa and his wife Danuta were welcomed at Prague's Ruzyne Airport by Jiri Dienstbier, deputy federal premier and foreign minister, and Karel Scharzenberg, head of the office of the president of the Republic.

Republic President Vaclav Havel welcomed with military honors the Polish President at the first courtyard of the Prague Castle. After the gala ceremony, the highest representatives of Czechoslovakia and Poland began their first talks.

Havel Discusses Relations With Poland

LD1609005791 Warsaw TVP Television Network in Polish 1752 GMT 15 Sep 91

[Interview with President Vaclav Havel by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given; recorded]

[Excerpt] [Correspondent] Mr. President, I am very pleased with the opportunity for you to present to Polish viewers yourself, your views on Czechoslovakia, Poland, Europe. If you will allow me, the first question relates to Polish-Czechoslovak relations. Often, when I speak with Czechs and Slovaks about Poland and with Poles about Czechoslovakia, I very often hear complaints at the fact that our cooperation still remains at the level of declarations. Do you believe that President Havel and President Walesa can change this situation?

[Havel, in Czech with superimposed Polish translation] I have the impression that this has already slowly begun to change. At the start, our countries were so taken up with their own problems that hardly anyone believed that they would be in a state fit to jointly coordinate their policies. I recall the meeting that we had in March 1990—this was the Hungarian-Czechoslovak-Polish political meeting. At that time, many journalists wrote that they did not believe in the possibility of cooperation between these three states, the close coordination of their policies, as each of these countries has so many of their own problems that it would be difficult to coordinate one's own policies with the other two

partners. It transpired that this was not true. We meet fairly frequently, this trio of ours, and the cooperation works in many cases.

We are, for instance, coordinating negotiations on the subject of the agreements on association with the EC, we are preparing mutual agreements between our countries, we coordinated our approach to the negotiations on new agreements with the Soviet Union. There are many drafts with which specialists are now occupied; sooner or later, they will be worked up and will widen this list, will serve the deepening of our cooperation.

That which relates to this trio also relates to Polish-Czechoslovak relations. There is, at the moment, no political hinderance to these relations being as close as possible. I have spoken to President Walesa and Prime Minister Bielecki several times and many times with Minister Skubiszewski. Now, President Walesa is to visit us, and we promise ourselves much from this visit. This will be a further deepening of our cooperation. I would like to say in relation to this that for the first time, precisely now, the possibility of truly good-neighborly relations and good cooperation between Poland and Czechoslovakia is expanding.

During the inter-war period, these countries did not get to know each other. Then there was the war. During the communist era, we were under the same whip, which forced us into artificial, obligatory cooperation, under the banner of communist ideology. Now we are independent states; we have similar problems, similar aims.

[Correspondent] Mr. President, our neighbor states are rising from the rubble of the Soviet empire. How do you evaluate these processes that are taking place in the east? What predominates—optimism or pessimism?

[Havel] I think that, above all, we should all be pleased with the fact that the situation there has so quickly leaped forward. The infrastructure of democracy that has liquidated the attempt at a putsch has accelerated events in the Soviet Union. That which the Soviet Union was potentially moving toward, which could have taken years, has taken place within a few days. [passage omitted]

Dobrovsky Views Defense Cooperation With Poland

AU1209135591 Warsaw RZECZPOSPOLITA in Polish 9 Sep 91 p 2

[Interview with Defense Minister Lubos Dobrovsky by Maria Wagrowska; place and date not given: "Strengthening Defense Capabilities"]

[Text] [Wagrowska] In your opinion, on what principles should Polish-Czechoslovak military cooperation be based?

[Dobrovsky] I think that the principles should be the same as those that people apply when they cooperate with each other: Openness first and foremost, as well as the common definition and realization of goals. Our goal is to strengthen the security of our states, and in connection with that, we want to coordinate all military activities, and that primarily concerns modernizing the military hardware of the Czechoslovak, Polish, and Hungarian Armies. It is a question of keeping costs low while obtaining the greatest possible results. We want our cooperation to assume a form that would make it possible to exchange information on what is going on in the world and on our borders and to do so principally through maintaining constant contact with each other.

[Wagrowska] Is the coordination of defense activities with regard to the association of states on the other side of our eastern border being considered?

[Dobrovsky] I would not put the question like that at all, and I could not even formulate the question in that way. What interests us is coordinating activities that would strengthen our defense capabilities with respect to all manner of dangers that could arise, irrespective of where they might come from. We have not defined the dangers.

[Wagrowska] Over the past few months, various reports have appeared on Czechoslovakia's position on the transit of Soviet troops being withdrawn from Germany. Could they transit through the territory of the CSFR?

[Dobrovsky] That is a question that should primarily be addressed to the appropriate Soviet officials. So far they have not asked us whether we would agree to that. At any rate, we have not received any questions of this kind from them to date.

[Wagrowska] On what principles will Czechoslovakia base its military relations with the union that will replace the Soviet Union and with the states that are leaving the union?

[Dobrovsky] We are asking ourselves the same question.

[Wagrowska] What kind of relations has Czechoslovakia had with the Ukraine?

[Dobrovsky] None at all. We did not have any kind of special relations with the Ukraine. We have only had relations with the Russian Federation. We also had relations with Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia, and we will have more extensive relations with these states. We are only just considering what form these political, diplomatic, and economic relations should take.

[Wagrowska] Did Czechoslovakia make any kind of special defense preparations while the coup d'etat was in progress in the Soviet Union?

[Dobrovsky] Yes, of course. We made preparations on the basis of operational plans that had been drawn up in various forms since March of this year. We modified them in the light of those developments to safeguard ourselves should there have been an uncontrolled wave of emigration and so that we could cope with it. Naturally, we also gathered information on what was going on in the Soviet military.

[Wagrowska] What is your view of the position that Soviet Army took during the coup?

[Dobrovsky] Like everyone else, what happened caught us by surprise. However, the coup was not solely the Soviet Army's affair, but a decision made by a group of politicians that also included members of the military. I would describe the position taken by a large number of military personnel as progressive; they were opposed to the coup.

[Wagrowska] Do you think that military relations between Czechoslovakia and Germany are possible? Because, as we know, there are difficulties with the conclusion of a treaty between the CSFR and the FRG.

[Dobrovsky] Cooperation regarding military matters is very good and is yielding concrete results, and I am confident that all the difficulties and problems that have arisen in preparing the text of the future Czechoslovak-German agreement will be overcome. There is nothing that poses a threat to our cooperation.

[Wagrowska] German Foreign Minister Genscher, who is chairing the work of the CSCE, is in favor of sending "blue berets" to Yugoslavia. What is Czechoslovakia's position on this question?

[Dobrovsky] Czechoslovakia would be prepared to participate in such units. If such a decision really is made, and is addressed to us, Czechoslovakia will agree to participate.

Klaus, Polish Minister Discuss Trade, Cooperation

AU1309160091 Bratislava NARODNA OBRODA in Slovak 12 Sep 91 pp 1-2

["(NO-wa)"-signed report: "Breaking Down Trade Barriers"]

[Excerpts] Prague—Polish Finance Minister Leszek Balcerowicz visited the CSFR yesterday. He agreed with CSFR Finance Minister Vaclav Klaus that their talks were very constructive. They revealed that both countries are experiencing many similar problems in the transformation process. [passage omitted]

Currency Convertibility

As far as the bilateral talks are concerned, the possibility of using national currencies in tourism is being taken into consideration for the very near future. This process should be oriented toward the mutual convertibility of the koruna and the zloty. Of course, this is an issue that will have to be discussed further. Two other agreements are being discussed at the moment. One concerns protecting investments, and the other concerns dual taxation on goods. These agreements should be signed within a month or six weeks.

Reducing Trade Barriers

L. Balcerowicz described adopting measures that reduce mutual trade barriers as very important for the development of further cooperation between Poland and Czechoslovakia. These measures should be adopted in tandem with each country's freedom of association with the European Community. At the moment, it is important for us to define specific aims and scope for mutual contacts, said L. Balcerowicz. Minister Klaus verified what he said.

Concerning the Credit Balance

In reply to a question from the Polish Press Agency, both ministers confirmed that, during their talks, they also discussed Poland's credit balance with respect to the CSFR. "It seems that we have found a way to eliminate it in convertible rubles," explained V. Klaus, "but the issue of eliminating accounts in national currencies is still unclear." Experts will be tasked with proposing a solution.

Before the news conference started, both ministers effectively convinced journalists of the friendly spirit of their talks. Mr. Balcerowicz gave Mr. Klaus a copy of a film that Japanese Television made about him. Our minister reciprocated with a copy of "A Cure According to Klaus" [a Czechoslovak Television documentary on Klaus' version of radical economic reform].

Thailand's Interest in Purchasing Weapons Reported

AU1309153091 Prague CTK in English 1911 GMT 11 Sep 91

[Text] Prague Sep 11 (CTK)—The supreme commander of the Thai Armed Forces, Suchinda Kraprayoon [spelling as received], told Czechoslovak Defense Minister Lubos Dobrovsky today his country is interested in buying weapons and ammunition from Czechoslovakia.

Kraprayoon arrived here today at Dobrovsky's invitation to discuss the security situation in Europe and Asia.

He also expressed interest in possible purchases of heavy building machinery as the Thai Army is active in the development of the country's transport network and water system.

Draft Screening, Alternative Service Laws Viewed

AU1309141391 Prague HOSPODARSKE NOVINY in Czech 10 Sep 91 pp 1-2

["(jop)"-signed report: "The Directors and Their Deputies in Enterprises, Too"]

[Text] The extraordinary meeting of the CSFR Government yesterday dealt with two issues that are being closely followed by the public—the screening bill and the bill on alternative military service.

Both bills will be presented in the Federal Assembly as soon as possible, CSFR Deputy Prime Minister Pavel Rychetsky said at a news conference. Rychetsky said that the bill that defines the conditions for holding office in certain CSFR, Czech Republic, and Slovak Republic bodies and organizations was discussed item by item, so that each item could be approved by every member of the government. The Federal Government reached an agreement that only a Federal Assembly law should deal with this issue. If the law is passed, it will apply to all jobs that are filled by election, appointment, or assignment in all the state administration bodies in the CSFR, the Czech Republic, and the Slovak Republic. It will also apply to similar jobs in the Czechoslovak Army, the Federal Security and Information Service, the Federal Police Corps, the Castle Guards, the Czech Republic Police Corps, the Slovak Republic Police Corps, the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic Prison Guards, the Office of the CSFR President, the Federal Assembly Office, the Czech National Council Office, the Slovak National Council Office, the CSFR Government Office, the Czech Republic Government Office, and the Slovak Republic Government Office. A similar procedure will be applied in Czechoslovak Radio, Czechoslovak Television, the Czechoslovak News Agency, Czech Radio, Slovak Radio, Czech Television, and Slovak Television. At the end of the list are jobs in state-owned organizations and state organizations engaged in economic activity whose chiefs (directors and deputy directors) are appointed from above. It is expected that the law will also apply to judges, auxiliary judges [prisedici soudce], prosecutors, investigators from the prosecutor's offices, state arbiters, junior judges [soudni cekatel] or lawyers serving articles [pravni cekatel] in court, in the prosecutor's offices, and in the state arbitration service.

These are the jobs from which—over the next five years—people can be dismissed, or they can be denied employment in these jobs for reasons specified by law. The bill provides for a dualistic legal situation [dvoji pravni rezim]. It deals separately with the federal and republican police corps. Apart from specifying jobs in these corps, the law is based on a disprovable legal assumption [vyvratitelna pravni domnenka]; that is, the ban on employment will apply to those who, between 25 February 1948 and 17 November 1989, took part in the suppression of civil and human rights as members of the State Security [StB] within the National Security Corps; those who knowingly collaborated with the StB; those who were Communist Party of Czechoslovakia [CPCZ] or Communist Party of Slovakia [KSS] officials on the level of regional or higher committees; those who were members of the Presidium of the CPCZ Central Committee Bureau for Controlling Party Work in the Czech Lands, if their work involved political control over the National Security Corps; those who were officials of the CPCZ and the KSS in the department that politically controlled the National Security Corps; and those who were members of the People's Militia and were commanders or members of a District Staff, or an equal-level staff or higher.

The law defines individuals who knowingly collaborated with the StB as follows: individuals who, in the above period, were registered in the Federal Interior Ministry files as a resident, agent, owner of an apartment used by the StB for undercover work, ideological collaborator, or StB confidant or informer; or who knew that he was in contact with a StB member and secretly provided him with information or accepted tasks from him.

In the case of the police corps, the law defines a different practice. The ban on employment is automatically applied if the facts mentioned above are true. No further investigation will be carried out into whether an individual violated human rights or not.

The ban on employment in the army will apply to jobs at the Ministry of Defense and also to district commanders, air force officers, air defense officers, and all commanders and chief commanders whose jobs require the rank of colonel or general.

The law anticipates a complex procedural routine for proving the existence of a legal reason for imposing a ban on employment, and the person in question will always be the first to have access to documents from which such a ban ensues.

However, the law allows publishers and operators of private mass media to request a certificate or findings (for themselves or for their employees, in which case they need the employee's approval) from the Federal Interior Ministry. It will be up to the mass media as to what they do with such information. The employment ban will not apply to them.

The bill on alternative military service was presented following a decision of the State Defense Council, since there are some alarming facts. More than 25,000 conscripts rejected military service and requested alternative service. Of this number, four fifths were not recruited for alternative service. The government rejected the establishment of a commission that would examine conscripts' religious beliefs, but instead, chose a different procedure. Within 30 days of conscription, recruits must make a binding declaration about the reasons preventing them from serving in the army. It will be impossible to change this declaration later (for example, during their military service). If they change their minds, their new decision will be ignored.

Reportage on SFRY Border, Airspace Controversy

SFRY Planes Allegedly Cross Border

LD1609113791 Budapest Kossuth Radio Network in Hungarian 1000 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Interview with Border Guard Colonel Attila Krisan by Attila Csaszar; place and date not given; recorded]

[Text] Hungary's airspace has been violated again by Yugoslav fighter planes. Missiles were launched from above Hungary to Yugoslav territory. Attila Krisan, a colonel in the Border Guard, was interviewed by Attila Csaszar:

[Begin recording] [Csaszar] Have you any information where the planes mentioned in the previous report crashed to earth?

[Krisan] We have no information about this news; we have not detected any plane crash or paratroopers jumping out in Hungarian territory. It is an event worth mentioning that at 0912, our patrol detected a jet-propelled aircraft flying out of Hungarian airspace above Illocska.

[Csaszar] And you have not detected it flying in?

[Krisan] No, we have not.

[Csaszar] How is it possible?

[Krisan] It might have flown in especially high or over a spot where we had no patrol. Further, around Dravaszabolcs, between 1036 and 1039, two jet-propelled aircraft at a height of about 1,000 meters flew into Hungarian territory and then launched missiles into Yugoslavian territory.

[Csaszar] What will be the consequences of this event?

[Krisan] It will certainly evoke a diplomatic protest.

Two Aircraft 'Presumably' Downed

LD1609122791 Budapest Kossuth Radio Network in Hungarian 1000 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] Donji Miholjac, some 10 kilometers from Dravaszabolcs on the Croatian side of the border, has been bombed. Ferenc Szaniszlo, staff member of the "Panorama" television program, reports:

[Szaniszlo] This morning, the Yugoslav Air Force launched an attack against the small town of Donji Miholjac, which lies immediately opposite Dravaszabolcs on the Hungarian-Croatian border. One of the Air Force planes repeatedly flew over the town at low altitude and then bombed it. From the hotel here, a second Yugoslav plane was seen being hit and crashing. Then, after it exploded on the ground—presumably on Hungarian territory—a third Yugoslav plane also crashed. One pilot escaped. Half an hour later, a visibly more modern type of Yugoslav combat aircraft appeared, followed by a combat helicopter; they launched a united attack against Donji Miholjac, firing several dozen rockets—some at our hotel, and at vehicles and trucks outside the hotel. Our car was also hit. Our crew, fortunately, is safe. The fighter planes have for the time being disappeared, but we do not know when they might return.

Downing of Yugoslav Planes Denied

LD1609110391 Budapest Kossuth Radio Network in Hungarian 1000 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] [Announcer] Defense Ministry spokesman Colonel Gyorgy Keleti is on the line. In the course of the morning, the BBC claimed in its newscasts that two Yugoslav Air Force aircraft had been shot down by Hungarian air defenses. I have received fresh reports; CNN is confirming the news. Is it true?

[Keleti] Good afternoon. This is Gyorgy Keleti speaking. The news is not true; I would like to reject the information that cites Radio Zagreb in a most definite manner. Unfortunately, reports that Hungarian air defenses have shot down two Yugoslav military aircraft have already been disseminated by several news agencies. Nothing like this has happened, despite the fact that events have been closely monitored by Hungarian air defenses that have been conducting appropriate patrols. We have not initiated any military action against Yugoslav planes.

At the same time, I would like to say that, on the basis of the assessment of our radars and appropriate monitoring systems, there have been continuous flights in the vicinity of the Hungarian border since 0908. In the course of these flights, Yugoslav fighters have been attacking settlements along the border with bombs and missiles, and as it has been said before, they have violated Hungarian airspace on three occasions so far, among which missiles were launched from above the border on two occasions.

[Keleti] At the same time...

[Announcer, interrupting] Please excuse me for interrupting, but can you confirm what the Border Guard spokesman has stated?

[Keleti] Yes, unfortunately, I can confirm it. Our air defense system is also following attentively these minutes; there is very intensive activity by the Air Force in Yugoslav territory. The Hungarian Air Force is patrolling in the region, which means that since this morning the Hungarian Air Force's combat aircraft, that is fighters and helicopters, over Hungarian territory are attentively following events. What has developed in the immediate vicinity of the border is very serious and requires the greatest patience and restraint from the Hungarian Army.

At the same time, on several occasions, we have called to the Yugoslavs' attention that incursions into Hungarian air space are a brutal violation of international law. For this reason, we reserve the right to take appropriate

measures with all means, and with the necessary means, to defend and safeguard that air space.

[Announcer] You are thinking not only of a diplomatic protest?

[Keleti] What I am thinking of is that the Hungarian Army is continuing to follow events there with special attention, and inasmuch as necessary, it will step in, since defending the Republic of Hungary's sovereignty also means defending its air space.

[Announcer] Thank you Col. Gyorgy Keleti.

Security Situation Viewed

LD1509035791 Budapest Kossuth Radio Network in Hungarian 2000 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Interview with Defense Ministry Spokesman Colonel Gyorgyt Keleti by correspondent Richard Robert Kiss; place and date not given; live or recorded]

[Text] Do the clashes in Yugoslavia endanger our country's security? [?Richard Robert Kiss] asked this of Gyorgy Keleti, spokesman for the Ministry of Defense.

[Keleti] What we know regarding the military operations that are spreading in Croatia is that these, at the moment, do not constitute any danger to the security of the Republic of Hungary. What we know is that at larger settlements near the border it is possible to detect tank movements, artillery fire, and considerable fighting with small arms.

However, I can state with pleasure that there has been no air activity that might have taken place in the immediate vicinity of the Hungarian border—that is, this was not a task for Hungarian air defense.

[Kiss] Has the Yugoslav military leadership informed you about all this military activity?

[Keleti] We have not received information along such lines from the Yugoslav military leadership. I can say in general terms that the Yugoslav military attache in Budapest has not given any such information to date.

International assessments of recent days, not the assessment of the Hungarian Ministry of Defense but international assessments, predicted this, that it could transpire that the Yugoslav People's Army might begin serious military operations in Croatia. For this reason, we were not entirely surprised by the series of military operations that began today.

[Kiss] After this, will you further reinforce the border area in question—will there be a mobilization?

[Keleti] There will be no mobilization, inasmuch as there is no radical change in the attitude of the Yugoslav Army, or in its plans, intentions. The Border Guard is defending, with appropriate security, the border of the Republic of Hungary. Thus, it appears that there is no problem from the viewpoint of border policing.

The Hungarian Army took certain preventive measures for the purpose of defending the air space. These were extremely important for the sake of the sovereignty of the Republic of Hungary.

[Kiss] What are these preventive measures?

[Keleti] We reinforced the radio-location systems that conduct surveillance on the air space of the border or of airspace that is directly linked to the border of the Republic of Hungary. And the commander of the Hungarian Army has decreed that, inasmuch as necessary and justified, that is inasmuch as on the basis of the locators' signals it becomes necessary, an appropriate number of aircraft or helicopters should patrol over Hungarian territory near the border.

Dravaszabolcs Border Crossing Closed

LD1609133191 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1232 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] Budapest, Sept 16 (TANJUG)—The border crossing between Hungary and Yugoslavia at Dravaszabolcs has been closed since midnight last night due to heavy shooting on the Yugoslav side, it was announced in Budapest today.

A press spokesman for the Hungarian border units, Colonel Attila Krisan, said that a number of missiles fired on the Yugoslav side of the border in Croatia fell in Hungarian territory, but had caused no casualties or material damage. Colonel Krisan said that Hungarian border units had "taken the necessary defence measures", but did not elaborate.

A spokesman for the Hungarian Defence Ministry has told today's NEPSZABADSAG that, on the whole, Hungary's security is not threatened by the clashes in Yugoslavia, for which reason "there has been neither concentration of troops in the border belt nor any similar measures". The Defence Ministry spokesman described rumours of Hungary's involvement in the conflict in Croatia as a "continuation of a malignant campaign" being waged against Hungary.

Guard: 'No Information' on Flights Into SFRY

LD1509171991 Budapest MTI in English 1611 GMT 15 Sep 91

[Text] Budapest, September 15 (MTI)—"The Hungarian Border Guard has no information on Hungarian aircraft of AN-2 type having violated the Yugoslav airspace Saturday night," Col. Attila Krisan, deputy spokesman of the Hungarian border guard told MTI on Sunday, responding to a statement made by the command of the Air Force of Yugoslavia.

According to a statement made by the command of the Yugoslav Air Force and Air Defence in Belgrade on Sunday, aircraft from Hungary's territory flew over the border into Yugoslavia and then back to Hungary in the region of Baranya late Saturday night.

The Yugoslav statement clearly defines the aircraft as AN-2, saying they were perceived by radar and were seen as well, between 9 PM on Saturday and 4.30 AM on Sunday.

"The attention of relevant authorities has been repeatedly called to the dangers of such activity. Now the command of the Air Force and Air Defence is informing the public on its intention to take the necessary steps against such action and states that it will not take any responsibility for the consequences," the Belgrade statement pointed out on Sunday.

Responding to the statement, Col. Attila Krisan said that as far as he was informed, Hungarian aircraft of AN-2 type, used for crop dusting, were not equipped with instruments for night flights.

Units of the Hungarian Border Guard serving along the Hungarian-Yugoslav border have not reported any movement over the period in question, in spite of the fact that they would certainly have noticed any aircraft flying over the border, Krisan said. AN-2-type aircraft are not able to fly so high as to remain unobserved by ground patrols, however, if, somehow, they had flown higher, the radar system would have perceived their movement. The Hungarian border guard has not received any notification on such events, Col. Krisan stated.

Spokesman on Serbian Minister's Postponed Visit

LD1609095791 Budapest MTV Television Network in Hungarian 0430 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] [Announcer] Contrary to plans, the Serbian Foreign Minister will not come to Hungary, although we hoped we could discuss the latest accusations by Belgrade. We interviewed Janos Hermann, Foreign Ministry spokesman:

[Begin recording] [Correspondent] Is the cancellation of the visit by the Serbian foreign minister linked to the exchange of notes regarding the latest Belgrade slanders?

[Hermann] No, it is not. According to the official Serbian communique, Mr. Jovanovic could not travel to Budapest due to his commitments at home. Therefore, we continue to expect the Serbian foreign minister.

[Correspondent] The Hungarian Government can involve other countries, too, in this whole matter, perhaps for supervision. Has any step been taken in this respect?

[Hermann] No step has been taken up to now; those who accuse have to prove. [end recording]

Antall Addresses SFRY, EC, European Issues

LD1309202291 Budapest Kossuth Radio Network in Hungarian 1635 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Report by unidentified correspondent on a news conference given by Prime Minister Jozsef Antall at Ferihegy Airport on 13 September; from the "Extra" program; passages in quotation marks are recorded]

[Excerpts] The Hungarian Government delegation has arrived home after a series of talks lasting almost a week. [passage omitted] On his arrival, the Hungarian prime minister answered questions from journalists. Understandably, this time too, the situation in Yugoslavia was the focus of attention:

[Antall] "I think that this quite simply does not even require a reply from me. Since Hungary does not transport arms to Yugoslavia, these are unfounded accusations. Yugoslavia's responsible politicians, including the head of state, have also spoken about this issue. [passage omitted]

"It is my conviction that every leading politician clearly sees that, in Yugoslavia, it is a question of democracy and dictatorship, of regressive forces; it could even be a question of communist political ideology, a question of nationalism. Here the problem can only be: What kind of practical solution can be found to resolve the Yugoslav question, with the restoration of the sovereignty of the republics, the guarantee of minority rights, and the question of borders, which simply cannot arise in the case of countries that have signed the Helsinki basic document and the Paris charter.

"This question simply does not require further reaction on our part. The Hungarian Government has taken the necessary diplomatic steps officially."

The next question was: Is the Hungarian Government reckoning with perhaps further acts of provocation arising in the near future from the Yugoslav side, apart from verbal accusations?

[Antall] "It is the obligation of the government to reckon with any kind of situation, including provocations also. However, I trust that Yugoslav behavior will not go beyond verbal accusations. So the country must naturally prepare for every possible provocation, in the question of its defense as well as its internal security. I would like to hope that this will not be needed. Our view is that, within Yugoslavia, there are internal tensions whereby there are disturbances in the operation of the state machinery. Also, what I said in November 1990 at the Paris summit has unfortunately been proved true—namely, that armies and armed forces that remain without political control represent a very grave danger in eastern-central Europe, and in eastern Europe. This has been proved spectacularly true since then, at the time of the Soviet putsch as well as in Yugoslavia."

There was, of course, mention at the news conference of the so-called investment protection agreement and the

possibility of Hungary's associate membership in the EC. On this, Jozsef Antall said:

[Antall] [passage omitted] "Yesterday morning, British Prime Minister Major not only confirmed that they would solve this issue, but also informed me that President Mitterrand had told him, too, that France did not want to veto the conclusion of the association agreement. [passage omitted]

"However, the issues connected with the joining of the countries of Central and Eastern Europe are of such political, almost historic, importance that this cannot by any means be regarded as a mere issue of agricultural quotas. Everyone agreed on this." [passage omitted]

In the following exchange, Jozsef P. Szabo asked the prime minister about the chances of creating a common Europe: [passage omitted]

[Szabo] "In connection with integration, you mentioned something very important—namely, the so-called social iron curtain, that is, the fact that a new iron curtain could come into being in Europe, between Central and Eastern Europe and Western Europe.

[Antall] "I said this two years ago, and the world's press took this up too, this question of an iron curtain of prosperity. I said that if this is not resolved, and if they do not endeavor to reconstruct our economy locally, then this will have very grave consequences, because in place of the iron curtain that collapsed, a social iron curtain relating to prosperity will develop that will again bisect Europe into prosperous societies and a Europe that is falling behind, which has got into crisis, is struggling with social problems. Eastern and Central Europe cannot be the backyard of Europe. I said all this at the time, and I repeated this now, that they should watch out for this, and that attention must be drawn to this, that the world will be better off if they put the economies of Hungary and the other countries in Eastern and Central Europe in order—or rather, at home in Eastern and Central Europe—with coordinated ideas. I did not urge a new Marshall plan here, but I did urge that the lessons of the Marshall Plan be taken into account, that coordinated aid can be arranged with the international financial and political organizations available today. The essence is that the world and the West must want to help, that they must really do everything in the interests of this." [passage omitted]

Antall, Goncz Meet With Albanian President Alia

LD1609004391 Budapest MTI in English 1910 GMT 15 Sep 91

[Text] Budapest, September 15 (MTI)—As reported earlier, an Albanian delegation headed by President Ramiz Alia arrived in Budapest for a brief visit on Sunday.

Ramiz Alia met and held talks with Hungarian Prime Minister Jozsef Antall and Hungarian President Arpad Goncz in parliament.

Present at the talks was the delegation accompanying Ramiz Alia: Minister of Foreign Affairs Muhamet Kapllani and parliamentary group leaders of the Socialist Party and the Democratic Party Ismail Lleshi and Nerita Ceka. Also attending the meeting were Deputy State Secretary of the Hungarian Foreign Ministry Imre Szokai, Albanian Ambassador to Budapest Jani Polena and Hungarian Ambassador to Tirana Ferenc Poka.

In the course of the talks, Antall said he was pleased to welcome the Albanian president in Budapest as Hungary has always felt sympathy towards Albania. He recalled that last year, at the time of the signing of the Paris Charter he had already missed Albania.

Antall informed Ramiz Alia of Hungary's economic situation, the difficulties of the switch to a social market economy and the privatization.

"We are making diplomatic efforts to prevent our region from becoming isolated, lest a new social "iron curtain" be formed because that would affect the West, too," Antall said.

Ramiz Alia told Antall that the aim set by Albania was the stabilization of its economy, the creation of a market economy and the development of villages and towns. He said he was aware that all this was not possible without a joint effort of democratic forces.

In the course of the talks, Albanian Minister of Foreign Affairs Muhamet Kapllani recalled that, as a result of his previous visit to Hungary, the country had extended help to Albania in the form of wheat deliveries. Apart from material support, Albania would need technological help, he said.

Ramiz Alia spoke about his country being worried about the Yugoslav crisis because as many Albanians live in Yugoslavia as in the mother country. Albania wishes to handle the issue with great tact, he said.

Hungarian Prime Minister Jozsef Antall and Albanian President Ramiz Alia agreed they would support the EC's endeavours towards the peaceful settlement of the Yugoslav crisis and that they would condemn armed violence. They stated they both held the autonomy of nationalities necessary as well as the talks to be held in The Hague.

In Jozsef Antall's and Ramiz Alia's view, The Hague talks should be attended by representatives of nationalities and ethnic minorities as well, including Albanians from Kosovo and Hungarians from the Vojvodina.

At his meeting with Ramiz Alia, Hungarian President Arpad Goncz stressed that Hungary has learned from its own experiences how difficult a period of transition can be.

At international forums, Hungary will actively support the idea of Albania being able to take part in European

and international political processes. According to Goncz, no one can be excluded from Europe.

Speaking about Yugoslavia, Goncz stated it was very important to see the developments realistically. Hungary would like a settlement of the crisis to be reached with the help of the EC but a permanent solution will have to be worked out by nations and nationalities living in Yugoslavia.

Serbia cannot be excluded from the settlement, Goncz stated, otherwise there might be a danger of a new crisis centre being formed. Goncz said the borders in Europe cannot be changed so it is in Hungary's interest for internationally controllable norms to be applied to all minorities. At the same time, the mother countries, economy, social situation and culture should be developed to provide a protection for minorities, Goncz added.

Ramiz Alia invited Goncz to visit Albania. Goncz accepted the invitation.

Ramiz Alia said Albania cannot be diverted from the path of democracy. Speaking about Yugoslavia, he stressed the importance of the restoration of peace in the Balkans.

Finally, the Albanian president expressed his delight over the good ties of his country with Hungary.

Ramiz Alia and his delegation are to travel to Helsinki on Monday.

Antall on Japanese Loans, Economic Cooperation

LD1209181191 Budapest Kossuth Radio Network in Hungarian 1400 GMT 9 Sep 91

["Excerpt" from interview with Prime Minister Jozsef Antall by correspondent Jozsef P. Szabo in Tokyo, date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Antall] These loans, on the one hand, make possible the raising of loans that have already announced in Budapest by Prime Minister Kaifu and also the granting of further loans. On the other hand, we raised the possibility of a guarantee of a stand-by loan. The prime minister was not averse to this, either. Naturally, this is an issue requiring a separate examination, which is (?rather) important from the viewpoint of making the forint convertible. We already have such loans from Germany.

Further, as a result of the discussions, we will be able to receive concrete support for the purpose of monument protection—in other words, not a loan, but aid. Apart from this, they will guarantee favorable credit options for environmental protection purposes.

I think that these things in themselves are fairly concrete, but over and above this, in Japan what is at issue is that Japan is significant also from the viewpoint of its interest in Europe, its international interest. After all, Japan is only now getting acquainted with the Central East European region. Now Japan has to evolve its economic political strategy, as it has to coexist with an expanding Common Market, and with an economic sphere evolving alongside American-European co-operation. It has to take into account the collapsed Soviet market. And in any case, a completely new situation has evolved.

Smallholder Party Elects Deputy Leaders

LD1609062391 Budapest MTV Television Network in Hungarian 1700 GMT 15 Sep 91

[Text] Today the Presidium and the legislative wing of the FKgP [Independent Smallholders' Party] held a joint session. Sandor Olah and Istvan Boeroecz have been reelected as the two deputy leaders of the legislative wing, but they have failed—even after several ballots—to elect a faction leader.

The main issue of the consultation was the relationship between the party leadership and the group of deputies that, in the view of the FKgP chairman, is excellent. According to the communique on the subject, the national leadership and the legislative faction wish to cooperate in party political issues but, in the course of parliamentary tasks—and we quote now—the group of deputies wants to safeguard its sovereignty. This was unambiguously viewed by those present at the session as a victory for the faction.

At a news conference, it was raised, among other things, that a few days ago Slovak Prime Minister Jan Carnogursky requested that Geza Jeszenszky take a position on Jozsef Torgyan's recent statement—the FKgP chairman urged starting negotiations on borders. The Hungarian minister of foreign affairs, has, on behalf of the government, dissociated himself already from the statement by Torgyan.

[Torgyan] I proposed the earliest possible opening of negotiations—I cannot conceive what there is in this that causes exception to be taken by or dissociation from the foreign minister, if this had taken place at all.

Finance Minister Wins Legislative By-Election

LD1609060291 Budapest MTI in English 1949 GMT 15 Sep 91

[Text] Budapest, September 15 (MTI)—Hungarian Finance Minister Mihaly Kupa has become an MP [member of parliament], according to calculations done on Sunday evening.

In the second round of the by-elections held in the 11th constituency of the north Hungarian county of Borsod-Abauj-Zemplen on Sunday, results from 70 of the 73 wards arrived in the centre by 8.50 pm.

Kupa, who ran for the mandate as an independent with the support of the Hungarian Democratic Forum, received 7,641 valid votes, 56.7 per cent.

The mandate was that of former Hungarian Prime Minister Miklos Nemeth, who is currently a vice-president of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

13,653 of the 49,434 eligible voters have cast their ballots, which exceeds the 25 per cent required for the validity of the by- elections.

In the first round, held on August 11, fewer than 50 per cent of eligible voters went to the ballot boxes so the round was invalid.

Secretary Meets Press on Unemployment, Economy

LD1309160191 Budapest Kossuth Radio Network in Hungarian 1000 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Report on a news conference by Hungarian State Secretary Gyorgy Schamschula by correspondent Gabor Bankuti with unidentified correspondents in Budapest on 13 September]

[Excerpts] Unemployment figures reached 250,000, State Secretary Gyorgy Schamschula disclosed, with the greatest number of job losses in Borsod, Szabolcs, and Nograd counties.

It is very probable that the Solidarity Fund will be exhausted before the end of the year; therefore, it will be topped from the Employment Fund with 1.5 billion forints. They consider it necessary to provide four billion forints supplement from the budget, as well. It seems inevitable that from next year the Solidarity Fund will have to be made self-financing. This would mean that, instead of the current two percent total, the contributions would be increased to six percent, because the support for the unemployed would cost at least 50 billion in 1992, almost as much as the defense budget.

Since this is beyond the remit of his Ministry, the state secretary could not answer the question on how this increase will be coordinated with next year's tax burden but expressed his view that this could hardly be avoided because, if too large a burden is placed on wages, the Hungarian economy could lose its competitive position in the world.

There is an intention to tighten controls to eliminate employment and abuses in the black economy. It seems excessive that the upper limit of benefits should be three times the minimum living costs, i.e. 21,000 forints. It would be better to be reduced to twice or 2 and ½ times the minimum living costs. The draft bill will be ready by the end of the month and will be presented to the Interests Coordinating Council. A total of 15-20 percent of the privatization revenues would also be paid into the Solidarity Fund.

On the finance minister's recommendation, the government discussed the first draft of a four-year privatization program. The aim is to establish the property ownership structure of a modern, civil, legal state [modern polgari jogallam]. There is an intention to reduce the proportion of assets owned by the state to 50 percent by 1994 and increase the share of foreign ownership 20-30 percent. Some part of the privatization revenue must be used to reduce internal state debts. There is the intention to define those areas in which the state can initiate privatization and those areas in which companies can do so. There is a plan to transform all state enterprises into companies. Those where this does not take place will come under the direction of the state administration and will be transformed next year. Monopoly positions will be eliminated even before privatization can take place, and the employees' right to express their views will be guaranteed. It is essential that these receive maximum attention.

The government accepted the ten-year program for road developments. By the year 2000, there will be 500 km of roads and 130 km of motorways; 400 settlements will be bypassed, and there will be spaghetti junctions [as heard] at 60 major crossings. At present day prices, this would cost 300 billion forints, and they are counting on significant involvement of foreign capital.

The program would create by the turn of the decade the network necessary for last year's traffic levels. [passage omitted]

Finally, the Hungarian Public Opinion Research Institute will be closed by 15 December because it is not a fortunate arrangement for such institutions to operate under government supervision. To preserve the intellectual capital accumulated at the Institute, the government is initiating the organization of an academic research group.

State Budget Deficit Increase Reported

AU1609102291 Budapest MTI in English 1437 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Text] Budapest, 13 September (MTI-ECONEWS)—The Hungarian state budget deficit grew by 7.9 billion forints (105 million USD) in August, and at the end of the eighth month was 69.2 billion forints (910 million USD), the Ministry of Finance announced here today.

Economic units paid 91.9 billion forints (1.2 billion USD) more into the budget than they received in support from state coffers during January-August. This surplus grew by a mere 6.6 billion forints (88 million USD) in August, while the average growth in the first seven months was 12.2 billion forints (163 million USD).

The balance of consumption taxes to state subsidies showed the opposite trend: The 8-month budgetary income surplus reached 150.3 billion forints (1.98 billion USD) and grew by 23.3 billion forints (306 million USD) in August. The monthly average increase in the first seven months was only 5.2 billion forints (68 million USD).

The balance of international monetary relations showed a slight surplus of 78 million forints (1.03 million USD).

Democratic Forum Deputy on National Minorities

AU1309155691 Budapest MAGYAR NEMZET in Hungarian 12 Sep 91 p 7

[Interview with Csaba Gy. Kiss, Presidium member of the Hungarian Democratic Forum, by Laszlo Gyorffy; place and date not given: "Csaba Gy. Kiss on Public Opinion on Politics, Development of Bourgeois Society, and Minorities—The Issue of Hungarians Living Beyond Our Borders Should Not Be Used for Domestic Political Feuding"]

[Excerpts] An increasing number of statements have recently appeared on the bourgeois society that is developing with difficulties and on the behavior of ethnic minorities within and outside our borders. We interviewed Csaba Gy. Kiss, who works for the Institute of Hungarian Studies, about these seemingly separate issues. [passage omitted]

[Gyorffy] What kind of minority policy should we form—partly for ethnic minorities and nationalities in Hungary, and partly for ethnic Hungarians living beyond our borders? Let us put aside the state socialist policy that considered that our speaking up for the fate of national minorities living beyond our borders could only harm them.

[Kiss] I recently attended an experts' conference in Vienna where French and Austrian politicians talked to experts and politicians of some Eastern European countries about the problems of national minorities. I again became convinced there that this issue is becoming increasingly urgent in Europe. In my opinion, we definitely have to differentiate here because national minorities in Hungary are of a completely different type from Hungarians living in our neighboring countries. This is a result of their absolute and relative numbers, their geographical situation, and their relations to the mother country. For example, Slovaks in Hungary settled in their current homeland some 250 years ago. They live scattered from Zemplen County to Transdanubia, the Pilis Hills, and Bekes County. They do not speak the everyday standard of their native language, and they were left out of modern Slovak national development. They cannot be compared to the Hungarians in Slovakia, and therefore, I think that any kind of reciprocity is a bad starting point. However, we have to pay special attention to the connections between Eastern European minority issues and, therefore, already in 1990, after the elections, we should have made more symbolic gestures toward Hungary's national minorities, no matter how small their numbers. We need a large degree of pragmatism because, even though the law on national minorities may be passed this autumn, it will only serve as a legal framework but cannot be a solution in itself. It is very important to distinguish between two things regarding Hungarians who were left outside our borders after 1918. One is the issue of cohesion in the areas of language, culture, and communication, because Hungarians in the Carpathian basin have a common language and common culture. The other thing is that they are citizens of politically separate countries. It is very wrong to confuse these two dimensions. Our connections partly have to be related to cultural, linguistic, and communication unity, but linking them to Hungarian political life—even just symbolically—is a tragic mistake. It is very important to treat Hungarians beyond our borders as a group of people with an independent political identity and, therefore, we must not use them as tools in our domestic policy. In my view, we could also make more progress on the issue of national minorities if we made more use of the cooperation framework of the CSFR, Poland, and Hungary, and if these countries presented a united front against all kinds of nationalism and ethnocentric aspirations.

Sejm Rejects Special Powers; Bielecki Responds

LD1409123691 Warsaw Radio Warszawa Network in Polish 1200 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Excerpts] As we have already reported, the Sejm today rejected the constitutional bill authorizing the government to issue decrees with the force of law. [passage omitted]

Voting for the bill were not only deputies of the Citizens' Parliamentary Floor Group and the Parliamentary Floor Group of the Democratic Union, but also a good number of deputies representing the left. The majority of members of the Polish Peasant Party [PSL] voted against the bill.

After the vote was over, Prime Minister Jan Krzysztof Bielecki held a brief conversation with journalists. He said that despite the rejection of the special powers act, the government will continue to operate because the state must function. The prime minister added: We must bring our country up to the elections in the safest way.

Sejm Speaker Mikolaj Kozakiewicz stated that he is very worried by the voting result. I am experiencing it a bit like a personal defeat, he added. I was always a supporter of those powers, and I said so. The speaker stressed that there are many government bills in the Sejm that we will in no way be able to cope with in several sittings.

At 1330 the Citizens' Parliamentary Floor Group met. From the information obtained by our reporter, it emerges that this group's deputies want to propose the bill on special powers for the government again.

OKP Deputy on Defeat

LD1409134991 Warsaw Radio Warszawa Network in Polish 1213 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Summary] Speaking in the Sejm as soon as it resumed after the lunch break, Deputy Edward Rzepka for the Citizens' Parliamentary Floor Group [OKP] made the following declaration:

[Rzepka] "Mr. Speaker, ladies and gentlemen! The OKP has for a long time been aware that for the majority of this Sejm, party games and the defense of previous privileges are more important than Poland's interests. In response to the recent, extremely irresponsible motion by the Left for the government's dismissal, the OKP chairman said on behalf of the Parliamentary Floor Group, and I quote: The process of Polish reforms has been threatened in the extreme. The destabilization of the state is increasing. Economic difficulties are deepening. Society is becoming dramatically poorer. For some time now, we have been observing among the post-Communist forces, including among a considerable section of deputies of the left, an increasingly distinct distaste for the transformations taking place in Poland and increasingly ostentatious attempts to save the remnants of the Communist order. End of quotation.

"Our fears have been fully confirmed. Those who voted today against the extraordinary powers for the government must be aware that by making the emergency rescue of the Polish economy impossible, they have struck at the bases of existence for the poorest social groups. Those who today have allegedly defended the principles of democracy have, in fact, consciously led to the shaking of the foundations of the state, in order to weigh down Solidarity and the political forces that have their roots in it with the responsibility for this, to regain power with the aid of slogans about bad Solidarity governments.

"Society should be informed that if, in the immediate future, there is no index-linking of old-age and disability pensions, no improvement in the budget situation and the state of State enterprises, if there still exist possibilities for stealing national assets [uproar from the floor], corruption and economic scandals, this will be the fruit of today's vote.

"May our defeat not mean Poland's defeat. The OKP intends in the immediate future to propose another legislative initiative in this field." [applause]

Liberals Disappointed

LD1509205791 Warsaw PAP in English 1841 GMT 15 Sep 91

[Text] Warsaw, Sept. 15—Premier Jan Krzysztof Bielecki met with members of the Liberal-Democratic Congress (KL-D), candidates for parliamentary seats on Sunday. During the meeting, the director of the National Bureau of the Congress said that the KL-D candidates issued a statement in which they expressed their disappointment that the Sejm (lower house) rejected Saturday the request to grant special powers to the government.

PAP Reports Reaction

LD1409192591 Warsaw PAP in English 1732 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Text] Warsaw, Sept 14—Following the rejection by the Sejm of the draft law on granting the Polish Government special powers, Premier Jan Krzysztof Bielecki assured newsmen Saturday: "We shall have to go on working, because we must lead the country to elections in the safest possible way."

"The Sejm (Lower House) or at least part of the Sejm had won, while the state is in trouble," was his comment.

Secretary of State at the President's Office Slawomir Siwek expressd his "highest concern" over the Sejm's refusal.

Siwek declined to say whether the president would undertake any action under the circumstances, but said: "One thing is certain: the whole idea of special powers for the Government has been supported by the president from the very beginning... Today the solution rests with Prime Minister Bielecki who enjoys the president's trust."

Meanwhile, the Government spokesman Andrzej Zarebski said the vote means that the necessary and speedy decisions will have to be made by means of normal legislative procedure.

The Bielecki government asked for special powers to be able "to make decisions serving consistent implementation of the economic reform," Zarebski recalled.

He said "the Government declares its readiness to cooperate with the leading organs of Parliament" in order to establish which of the drafts must be adopted during the next few days. The spokesman added that the present situation calls for leaving aside all political disputes and this in the categories of common good that is the weal of the state.

Sejm Speaker Mikolaj Kozakiewicz said he was very much worried over the development. "It will be a great problem for the country," he said meaning that the Sejm will not be able to cope with so many government-proposed drafts tabled in the Sejm during several meetings.

In its statement read out in the Sejm the Parliamentary Citizens' Caucus (OKP) blamed those who voted against special powers that "by making impossible a speedy salvation of the Polish economy they hit out at the foundations of existence of the poorest groups of society."

The society must know that it will be impossible to swiftly valorize old age and disability pensions, to improve the situation in state budget and state-run enterprises, and to prevent corruption and economic fraud, the statement says. The OKP Caucus will soon undertake a new legislative initiative concerning powers for Government.

The Democratic Left Parliamentary Caucus (PKLD) declared that the house will undertake effort to swiftly complete work on the budget amendment draft "in a way that it will make it possible to realize the fundamental needs of society and interests of the state."

Bronislaw Geremek on behalf of the Democratic Union Caucus (KPUD) suggested the next meeting of the house should be of extraordinary character and should be devoted to draft amendments to the budget law, the law on pensions and the issuing of treasury bonds.

Lithuanian Council Decision Incites Protest

LD1609020391 Warsaw Radio Warszawa Network in Polish 2200 GMT 15 Sep 91

[Text] Over 1,000 Poles have demonstrated in Niemenczyn against the dissolution by the Lithuanian Supreme Council of the Polish Regional Councils in Salcininkai and in Vilnius rayon, and also against the transgression of the principles of democracy and human rights in free Lithuania. It was stressed that the decisions of the Lithuanian legislature are not a manifestation of the struggle with the communists, only with Poles.

Skubiszewski Cancels 16 Sep Trip to Vilnius

LD1409052591 Warsaw PAP in English 2242 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Text] Vilnius, Sept, 13—The rights for the Polish national minority in Lithuania became the bone of contention during the Polish-Lithuanian talks on bilateral declaration of relations in Vilnius. Under the circumstances, the Polish Foreign Ministry said that the Polish diplomacy chief would not go to Lithuania as planned before.

A delegation of the Polish Foreign Ministry failed to reach agreement here September 12-13 on the final version of a Polish-Lithuanian declaration on the principles of mutual relations and Poland's Foreign Ministry Krzysztof Skubiszewski will not go to Lithuania September 16-18 as planned.

The talks on the declaration, however, will be continued, and the Lithuanian side was invited to Warsaw for this purpose at a date suitable for it, said Jacek Czputowicz, the head of the Polish delegation.

The main differences of opinion boil down to the Lithuanian side's refusal to include in the declaration a provision that both sides will refrain from actions to change their national structure and a provision guaranteeing representatives of both nationalities the right to use original spelling of their names.

Besides, Poland and Lithuania did not reach agreement on national schools and on acquiring of the Lithuanian citizenship by Poles living in the Vilnius region without a declaration of loyalty.

Czaputowicz told journalists that both sides agreed only on general formulations concerning cultural and educational matters and minority non-discrimination.

Walesa Writes Landsbergis on Diplomatic Ties

LD1609084891 Warsaw Radio Warszawa Network in Polish 0600 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] President Lech Walesa has written a letter to Vytautas Landsbergis, president of the Lithuanian Supreme Council, who made a brief stopover in Warsaw last night.

In his letter, the president acknowledged with satisfaction the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Polish Republic and Lithuania. However, he expressed concern over the rapidly worsening situation facing Poles in Lithuania. The President pointed out that rights of the Polish community had been essentially curtailed in the Lithuanian Republic. He stressed that the liquidation of the Polish self-governing bodies, and

the introduction of the commissars' rule are moves that deprive Poles of the possibility to defend their interests in a momentous period of establishing independent statehood and [word indistinct]. Poland takes the view that these issues should be solved through dialogue and agreement in keeping with the law. This is in the interests of Lithuania, Poles in Lithuania, and Poland.

Skubiszewski Submits German Border Treaty to Sejm

LD1309095291 Warsaw Radio Warszawa Network in Polish 0708 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Address by Foreign Minister Krzysztof Skubiszewski at the Sejm session in Warsaw—live]

[Text] Mr. Speaker, may it please the House: The Polish Government has already submitted to the House the treaty between the Polish Republic and the Federal Republic of Germany on confirming the joint border, signed on 14 November 1990, in Warsaw. The Polish Government now presents to the Sejm the treaty between Poland and the Federal Republic of Germany on good-neighborliness and friendly cooperation, signed in Bonn on 17 June. The treaty ratification requires Sejm approval because some of its clauses, dealing particularly with protecting minorities, concern the substantive issues regulated by law. The border confirmation treaty does not change Polish law, and the existing border has been a part of the Polish legal order. The border confirmation treaty does not fall under Article 32, Section G, Paragraph 2 of the Constitution. However, the issue is too important not to inform the Sejm officially about the ratification intention. Such information has been submitted. Europe is at a turning point in its history. We face a real chance for continental unity. Our interests are common, a common lot, common values and aspirations. We need peace, security, democracy, freedom, and respect for the law. We should be able to achieve these goals with the united efforts of European democratic forces. This task requires the joint cooperation of all states and nations and requires abandonment of historic prejudices and sometimes even enmity. Relations with Poland's neighbors are of strategic importance.

The most vital national and state interests come into play. Our European policy, our contribution to European unification, strivings for integration with Western Europe, all this required a breakthrough in Polish-German relations. The ballast of aggression and crimes committed during WW II was and is tragic. Our independence was destroyed at that time, and we have only recently regained it. Millions of Polish citizens lost their lives, including almost all Polish Jews. Hundreds of thousands of people to this day feel the effects of the crimes. A bitterness and sense of injustice remains with Poles and Germans who had to leave their home districts as a result of the border changes caused by war.

Future points emerge from all these facts, particularly the importance of Polish-German relations and the obligations of both to live together in peace and friendship for their mutual good and for the good of Europe. Without forgetting history, we look to the future. Good-neighborliness and friendly cooperation resulting from a community of Polish-German interests are the fundamental premises of European unification. There will be no unified Europe without Polish-German agreement and reconciliation.

This is why we have tried, together with our German partner, to create the political and legal foundations for relations between the new, democratic Poland and unified Germany. The importance of this effort for Europe can be compared to the already achieved Franco-German reconciliation. Democratic Europe expected and expects courageous and farsighted moves by us.

The task could not have been carried out without the efforts of those forces in Poland and Germany that, over the years, could rise over prejudice, divisions, and various political games, those forces that have seen the future of both our states and nations and the future of a peaceful, democratic, and united Europe in understanding and reconciliation between the Poles and the Germans. We remember a stand adopted by Polish bishops in 1965, which was of historic importance, very brave, and filled with humanism. We emphasize many years' efforts by the German Evangelical Church. A gesture of reconciliation by Willy Brandt, a great European, during his visit to Warsaw in 1970 has a permanent place in Polish-German history.

May it please the House: The treaty confirming the Polish-German border closes the past. The treaty on good-neighborliness and friendly cooperation has been directed at the future. It has a strong base, on the present good state of Polish-German relations. To expand cooperation, it was necessary to conclude with the united Germany the treaty confirming the Polish-German border. The treaty eliminates every ambiguity over the legal status of the Polish-German border, which sometimes appear in Germany, and it specifies univocally what is fundamental for Poland's security and its territorial integrity. The border treaty has a pivotal importance in developing the Polish-German community of interests. It would have been difficult to think about good relations between Poland and Germany without clarity on this issue.

Only recognized and unquestionable borders can become open European borders. This is important for uniting Europe. The present border has been a permanent element of the European peace order. Here, I recall political and legal connections between our treaty on confirming the existing Polish-German border and the treaty on final regulation regarding Germany, signed on 12 September 1990, in Moscow, by four powers and the then two German states. The Moscow treaty, called the two-plus-four treaty, proclaims that the borders of united Germany are final in a political and legal sense and that no other treaty or any form

of peace settlement can be considered. Poland's participation in this part of the two-plus-four conference was necessary. The conference discussed our security issues, including the border issue; nothing about us was discussed without our presence.

May it please the House: The treaty on good-neighborliness and friendly cooperation presented to the Sejm today has been the consequence of closing the border issue. I discussed the treaty in the house on 7 June. The treaty regulates bilateral issues in general; it includes a new idea of international relations and is based on international standards regarding human rights. The treaty goes beyond Polish-German relations, has all-European significance, and consolidates cooperation prospects. It is to become a pillar of the new free and democratic Europe on the ground of common values. The treaty will simplify Poland's integration with Western Europe. Close cooperation and permanent agreement with Germany will have considerable impact on implementation of our strategic goal, which is EC membership. The treaty serves Poland's interests well in the present difficult period, in which creation of the European security system remains far away. The treaty is a strong link in a chain of obligations contributing to our security. This is a modern treaty, uniting Polish, German, and European interests well.

May it please the House: I think that many detailed points concerning the treaty will be a subject of the debate that will follow my introduction. Considering time is limited; I restrict myself to two issues: treaty provisions concerning minorities and the issue of compensating the victims of the Hitlerite crimes.

First, the minorities issue: The treaty provision concerning minorities is based on international standards, primarily on a document from a 29 June 1990 Copenhagen meeting on the CSCE human dimension. There is no special solution here that concerns only Poland and Germany, as some people say sometimes. The obligations for Poland and Germany included in the treaty originate from various international legal and political acts or their state law. I add here that two guarantees have been drawn up univocally in the treaty. First, minorities are required to remain loyal to the state in which they live and to the citizenship that they hold. Second, there is an obligation to observe, together with minority rights, the basic international legal rules, including the rule on territorial integrity and sovereignty of the state they live in—that is, the duty not to question the borders. I must explain that the issue of the situation of the Poles in Germany was not an easy one. On one hand, there are Polish groups in Germany that fall under the definition of minority. On the other hand, there are Polish citizens who have lived in Germany for years who hold no German citizenship; in effect, they are not legally minority members. At the same time, we feel that this group should have some rights similar to those of minority members. The situation was also difficult because Germany has been consistently avoiding to term and recognize alien ethnic groups as minorities, although they have been given a number of rights. However, we have succeeded in negotiating a favorable solution. The treaty guarantees minority rights for Poles living in Germany and holding German citizenship. The remaining Poles living in Germany and having no German citizenship have been covered by an obligation of the Federal Government, included in letters exchanged by the foreign ministers. The German Government says it will try to create possibilities for this group of people to avail themselves, to a large extent, of the appropriate rights due to minority members.

The second important issue is compensating Polish victims of the Hitlerite crimes. I have addressed the House on this issue several times. I recall that the reparations issue due Poland after WWII was taking a particularly unfavorable course. Political circumstances were very bad, and no peace treaty with Germany had been concluded, although such a treaty usually included the reparations issue. The Polish People's Republic Government made gross errors and was guilty of gross negligence on the issue. It is too late to make corrections. The chance for a satisfactory solution passed long ago. There has been no possibility for solving the reparations issue on the legal plane because of the German legal position, which is why the issue has not been regulated by the treaty. This does not mean that it has ceased to exist for us and for the German Government. Poland's representatives constantly emphasized that, without a satisfactory solution to the compensations issue to Polish victims of the Hitlerite crimes, the reconciliation process and accord between the Poles and the Germans would be seriously hampered, both in the treaty negotiations and in the course of all major political meetings within the last two years. We pointed out the need for a humanitarian solution. We are close to concluding an appropriate agreement with the German Government. The agreement will encompass the following points:

First, the Polish Government will set up a foundation to assist suffering victims of the Hitlerite crimes;

Second, the Federal Government will pay a specified lump sum for the foundation by the agreement terms with the Polish Government;

Third, the matter will be finalized together with the treaty conclusion on good-neighborliness and friendly cooperation—that is, not later than the treaty will come into force.

The document will be treated as a binding, intergovernmental agreement. Work has been progressing at the Council of Ministers on the foundation statutes. The statute is being drafted in conjunction with the injured parties' associations. The foundation will be set up immediately after the agreement is concluded.

May it please the House: I will conclude. The treaty on good- neighborliness and friendly cooperation looks to the future. Its aim is partnership and friendly cooperation, agreement and reconciliation. The neighborhood

will become the starting point for regional cooperation. Polish-German coexistence is and will be the fusion carrier of Europe into a single whole. Treaties are the legal and political foundation for the common destiny and interests of Poles and Germans in a unified Europe. I particularly stress the concept of community interests, which is dear to me. Future Polish relations with Germany are taking shape and will take shape in accordance with the Polish raison d'etre and in accordance with the states and Europe's well-conceived interests.

The treaty expresses the dynamic concept of Poland's opening to those abroad, including Germany and the Germans. I repeat: the treaty has fundamental significance for Poland's integration with the West. As for the West as a whole, cooperation and agreement with Germany will have great bearing on the final result of our European option. The treaty will serve our security interests well, particularly given a certain fluidity in other regions. The treaty expresses a new idea in today's international relations: It recognizes basic and modern international standards. It is no accident that it is recognized by some third states as a model for regulating similar problems.

Let us remember that the treaty has a broad function, for it goes beyond Polish-German relations. It has pan-European significance. It expresses common values, such as democracy, human rights, law-abidance, and a market economy. All this is specifically written into the pages of the document tabled before the Sejm today.

Of course, life will give the final treaty assessment, i.e. its practical implementation. Every treaty is worth as much as its implementation. One can already say today that the forecasts are good. Since a new Polish Government was created two years ago, a fundamental breakthrough has been reached in Polish-German relations.

The treaty introduced before the House is—I do not hesitate to say—an historic event. It strengthens what was good in Polish-German relations hitherto. Above all, it delineates such a course for our common affairs that relations between the two great nations will take on new forms and content, reacting to current challenges while also being ahead of those challenges. Guided by these considerations and aware of the historic moment we are experiencing, the Polish Government requests the Sejm to express, in the form of an act, agreement to treaty ratification with the Federal Republic of Germany on good-neighborliness and friendly cooperation.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Walesa Support for UN Troops in SFRY Reported

LD1509191891 Warsaw PAP in English 1711 GMT 15 Sep 91

[Text] Czestochowa, Sept. 15—President Lech Walesa met in Czestochowa on Sunday with German Federal Labour Minister Norbet Bluem to discuss European affairs and dangers threatening European democracies.

Both politicians stressed the need for the presence of U.N. peace keeping forces in Yugoslavia to avert further bloodshed in that country.

Walesa and Bluem, discussing the sphere of social problems in Poland and Germany, agreed on the need for further cooperation, mutual assistance and the exchange of experiences in this field.

Norbert Bluem paid a one-day visit to Czestochowa where Sunday he was initiated to the order of Black Madonna, a member of which is also President Walesa.

Nastase Visits Baltics; Agreements Signed

AU1409153491 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 0942 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES 14/9/1991—Romanian Foreign Minister Adrian Nastase paid successive visits to Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia conducting talks in Vilnius, Riga and Tallin with Lithuanian Foreign Minister Algirdas Saudargas, Latvian Foreign Minister Janis Jurkaus and Estonian Foreign Minister Lennart Meri, ROMPRES correspondent reports. Understandings were signed to establish diplomatic relations between Romania and the three Baltic republics interrupted after those countries' inclusion in the USSR according to the provisions of the Ribbentrop-Molotov Pact. Traditional links between Romania and the former Soviet republic are thus restored by inaugurating a new cooperation stage against the background of the major political and economic transformations occurred in the East European states.

The Romanian foreign minister also met with the speaker of the Lithuanian parliament [title as received], Vytautas Landsbergis, and with the first deputy speaker of the Latvian parliament Dainis Ivans.

Adrian Nastase extended to the president of the Republic of Lithuania Vytautas Landsbergis President Ion Iliescu's invitation to pay a visit to Romania.

Nastase Meets With Moldova's Snegur, Tiu

AU1409180291 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1704 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Text] Chisinau ROMPRES 14/9/1991—After Friday's tour of Baltic countries—Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia—Romania's Foreign Minister Adrian Nastase arrived on 13 September at Chisinau [Kishinev] for a brief visit.

The chief Romanian diplomatist was received by the president of the Republic of Moldova, Mircea Ion Snegur. They discussed the development of the bilateral relations in all fields in the conditions put in place by the proclamation of independence of the Republic of Moldova. Stress was laid on the support and aid that Romania should give to the Republic of Moldova to strengthen its independence, and to solve its current problems.

The complex situation arising from the artificial and unlawful separation of the so-called Dniestr Republic held a place apart. Hopefully the problems can be solved, it was shown.

In reference to his talks with the Romanian foreign minister, President Mircea Snegur told the press they marked a significant moment, as it was the Romanian foreign minister's first visit to Moldova. We discussed political and economic ties between our two countries, he said. Just like in my previous meetings with Romanian statesmen—the president of Romania, the prime minister and other high-ranking cabinet members—our talks evinced the full understanding of the sides of the existence at this stage the links of two Romanian states which are going to become closer in all areas. The aim is to achieve spiritual and economic unity by various ways, including joint ventures. Simplified border-crossing formalities were given greater attention this time, he added.

The Romanian foreign minister also met with his Moldovan counterpart, Nicolae Tiu with whom he discussed the growth and strengthening of the mutual relationship.

Diplomat Says Transylvania Study Not Official

AU1309170991 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1537 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 13/9/1991—Friday, September 13, Zygmunt Komonowski told a new conference the embassy's stand on the critical remarks in the Romanian mass media regarding the article in the Polish magazine "SENS."

Considering that that article was neither inspired nor authorized by governmental institutions, the Polish diplomatist read a statement whereby the staff of the Bucharest Embassy express regrets at "insulting and groundless insinuations at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and even the Government of Poland in the Romanian mass media."

Answering journalists' questions the Polish ambassador assessed the statement read during the news conference was equivalent with an official denial of the involvement of the Polish authorities in the writing of the criticised article. The information provided could not clarify whether the incriminated study filed with the Polish Foreign Affairs Ministry was written upon request of the ministry or just handed over at its headquarters.

As for the tense atmosphere in the news conference room Zygmunt Komorowski concluded that "there were too many emotions involved for a reasonable talk to be held" considering that "the Romanians' sensitiveness as concerns Transylvania can be explained through their meridional temperament."

IBRD Grants Credits for Developmental Aid

AU1209152091 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1246 GMT 12 Sep 91

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 12/9/1991—The loan the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) grants to Romania amounts to 754 million dollars to be used as follows: 180 million dollars for technical assistance and emergency imports; 150 million dollars for the rehabilitation and qualitative growth of assistance in the health system; 24 million dollars for technical assistance in infrastructure; 100 million dollars for the development of agriculture; and 300 million dollars for the structural adjustment of the economy.

As part of the credit arrangements between Romania and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), worth one

billion dollars, 598.78 million dollars were given so far, of which 346.78 million dollars for compensatory financing and financing in unexpected situations. At the same time, the first batch (of 87.36 million dollars) was sent of the three to be granted in the third and fourth trimesters of 1991 pending the observance of the terms agreed upon with the IMF. This loan was granted for a period five years, of which three years as period of grace.

"G-24" ["Group of 24"] too, continues to grant financial aid to Romania on the basis of a loan accord between the European Economic Community and Romania to support the external balance of payments and strengthen the hard-currency reserves of the country. The loan amounts to 500 million dollars granted by both the countries affiliated to the group and non-community members of the Group of 24.

The credits granted to Romania by the European Investment Bank, with a total worth of 94.85 million dollars, are intended to implement financial contract between the national power unit "Renel" and the European Investment Bank as concerns a project to rehabilitate thermoelectric plants.

Recently, "Siemens" offered a credit to Romania, 200 million DM, to benefit the Ministries of Health, National Defence, Interior, Industry and Transport, Trade and Tourism.

Communique Issued on Cernavoda Reactor Status

AU1409153091 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1054 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES 14/9/1991—The International Agency for Atomic Energy and the RENEL Electricity Public Corporation of Romania have released a communique on the findings of the pre-OSART mission to the nuclear electric plant of Cernavoda over September 24 - October 12 last year which specifies that "the plant in Cernavoda is based on advanced Western technology. The design is authorised for operation in Canada whose standards and methods meet generally acceptable international requirements.

The communique also shows that measures were taken to carry into effect all the suggestions made by the pre-OSART mission which resulted in the finding and application of solutions to more than three fourths of the questions raised; some of them are completely solved and others are under settlement and in a satisfactory stage. Like major problems are: Reorganization of electricity producing industry of Romania into a state public corporation no longer under the direct supervision of the government; restructuring of the venture's management by concluding a contract with firms experienced in managing nuclear plants and building electric plants; control of the quality of construction works; drafting of plans, approved also by the Romanian Government, to improve social conditions in the town of Cernavoda.

Delay in Wheat Harvest 'Without Precedence'

AU1409150291 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 0919 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES 14/9/1991—The school year is about to begin and wheat has not been harvested yet, a fact without precedence in Romania in tens of years. There still are 50 thousand hectares to be harvested. As much as 5,150,000 tonnes have been gathered so far and the final figure will probably stand at 5,250,000 tonnes, 1.5 million tonnes more than the national consumption until the next crop.

Federal

Croatian Guardsmen Continue To Surrender

AU1309142491 Belgrade Radio Belgrade Network in Serbo-Croatian 1300 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Dragan Bera report]

[Text] There was shooting today in the Banija war zone, but most attention was paid to the surrender of Croatian fighters who have been occupying Kostajnica for the last month and a half. Dragan Bera has a report:

[Bera] The Croatian armed forces in Kostajnica in Banija are experiencing a veritable debacle. Two hundred and ninety-two members of the Croatian Ministry of Internal Affairs [MUP] and the Croatian National Guard have surrendered to the territorial units in Bosanska Kostajnica. Seventeen of them are seriously or slightly wounded. Apart from that, about 70 MUP members and guardsmen have surrendered to the territorial units of Banija.

Even they do not know for sure how many have died in the battles in Kostajnica in the last few days. The leader of the National Guard corps, Zvonimir Kalan, and the MUP leader, Nedeljko Podunajec, say that the coffins and trenches in Kostajnica contain about 20 dead and that in the last few days several dozen Croatian fighters have been killed.

At noon today a column of seven buses of the Banija bus company, accompanied by the Yugoslav People's Army, transported the MUP members and guardsmen to Banja Luka. In Bosanska Kostajnica no one knows for sure or can say what the fate of the Croatian fighters will be, but it is certain that the Yugoslav People's Army represents real salvation for them. They talk most about the fact that they were deceived by their leaders in Zagreb and Sisak who promised them a lot, but in the end left them in the lurch and surrounded in Kostajnica. Since they were aware of how much harm they had done to Banija, they surrendered in Bosnia.

However, were it not for the extremely correct behavior of the members of the Bosanska Kostajnica Territorial Defense and the presence of the Army, they would probably have had a hard time with the people in Bosanska Kostajnica because units have been attacking this town in the last few days. Two people have died and seven were injured in these attacks and considerable damage has been done. The Kostajnica Territorial Defense has lost seven people since the beginning of the fighting in this town.

There has been sporadic shooting in Kostajnica today. That is to say, 60 of the most obstinate MUP members and guardsmen and surrounded members of the local Croatian Democratic Community who are known to have the most blood on their hands in the Kostajnica area have not surrendered yet. The mopping up operation in the area, which is being carried out by the Kostajnica Territorial Defense, will probably include them, too. They do not even deserve anything better from the Banija people.

Mesic Claims No Knowledge of Presidency Meeting

LD1309171391 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1500 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Text] SFRY Presidency President Stipe Mesic's office in Zagreb today received notes from Belgrade on a working meeting of members of the SFRY Presidency held today. It was signed by Presidency Secretary General Anton Stari.

The notes say that those taking part in the meeting, which was led by Dr. Branko Kostic, vice president of the Presidency of Yugoslavia, included Presidency members Jugoslav Kostic, Sejdo Bajramovic, and Dr. Borisav Jovic. Stipe Mesic, who was in Zagreb, and Presidency members Dr. Vasil Tupurkovski and Dr. Janez Drnovsek, who are abroad, and Bogic Bogicevic, who was in Bosnia-Hercegovina, did not attend the meeting. The meeting was held in keeping with Article 47(A) of the rules on the working of the Presidency of Yugoslavia.

The notes add that at the meeting consideration was given to some current questions in the work and activities of the Presidency of Yugoslavia under the present circumstances. It was pointed out that there are some current questions that should be given urgent consideration at a Presidency session, so at this meeting it was agreed that the president of the Presidency of Yugoslavia immediately be informed of the meeting and that he be requested to convene a session of the Presidency. If a session is not convened, it was agreed that on Wednesday, 18 September, a meeting of the members of the Presidency of Yugoslavia will be held to exchange views on these issues and agree on further work.

In connection with this information, Stipe Mesic stated to HINA that until he received these notes he knew nothing of this working meeting of four members of the Presidency held today. Mesic assessed this meeting as the continuation of, and yet another confirmation of, the military coup that has been carried out in Yugoslavia.

Jovic Accuses Mesic of 'Harassing' Public

LD1309193391 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1819 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Text] Belgrade, 13 Sep (TANJUG)—Following today's statement by SFRY Presidency President Stjepan Mesic that he is going to address the United Nations in order to, as he put it, stop the war of aggression waged by Serbia and the Serbian army on the territory of Croatia and Bosnia-Hercegovina, Borisav Jovic, member of the collective head of state, told TANJUG tonight that Mesic's statement amounts to "culmination of abusing and politically harassing our public and our citizens."

"The public knows very well, and certainly so does the UN secretary general, that Yugoslavia has a collective head of state. Without its decision, any public statement by the SFRY Presidency president is an individual act that bears no official significance," Jovic said.

"The Yugoslav Presidency has examined neither the possibility of addressing the United Nations nor the possibility of inviting 'the blue helmets' to Yugoslavia. Stjepan Mesic has of late not been visiting the Yugoslav Presidency and is not maintaining contacts with the other members of the Yugoslav Presidency. He has also behaved like an outlaw. He is stubborn in his attempts to decide on behalf of the collective head of state without the other Presidency members."

"I regard this as his desperate and unconstitutional attempt to bring foreign military intervention to Yugoslavia to protect the separatism and violence carried out by the Croatian authorities. No doubt, this is an attempt to obstruct the conference on Yugoslavia in The Hague, because the Croatian leadership has realized that Europe will learn the real truth about the causes of the crisis in Yugoslavia and that the current euphoric siding of some countries with the separatist, anticonstitutional, and violent activity by the Croatian leadership will rapidly fade away," Jovic said.

Government Reported 'Speedily Dissipating'

LD1509095491 Belgrade TANJUG in English 0924 GMT 15 Sep 91

[by Dragan Lazarevic]

[Text] Belgrade, Sept 15 (TANJUG)—The Yugoslav Government is speedily dissipating following the announced resignations two days ago of the federal secretaries for finance and development, Branimir Zekan and Bozidar Marendica, leaving it without a total of six ministers, including Deputy Prime Minister from Slovenia Dr Zivko Pregl.

The federal government should be composed of 19 members—the prime minister, two deputy prime ministers, twelve federal secretaries and four ministers without portfolios.

The ministries of finance, development, foreign trade, transport and communications and one ministry without portofio are without their chiefs.

Two months ago, during the clash between the Slovenian territorial defence units and the units of the Yugoslav People's Army, the staff from Slovenia handed in their resignations—one deputy prime minister, two ministers and the government's information secretariat secretary. They have now been joined by the representatives of Croatia—two ministers and another two assistants to the ministers of transport and communications and of agriculture.

The transport ministry is in the worst position, it has been left both without a minister and deputy. The foreign trade ministry is to meet a similar fate since the deputy minister, currently heading the ministry, handed in his resignation to the Yugoslav Assembly in midsummer.

Acting still in the federal government are Federal Prime Minister Ante Markovic, Deputy Prime Minister Aleksandar Mitrovic, the federal secretaries for foreign and internal affairs, as well as for defence—Budimir Loncar, Petar Gracanin and Army General Veljko Kadijevic respectively. Also still in the government are federal secretaries for justice and federal administration Dr Vlado Kambovski, for trade Nazmi Mustafa, for agriculture Dr Stevo Mirjanic and for labour, health, social security and veterans Radisa Gacic. The ministers without portfolios include Veselin Vukotic, Satrija Pojskic and Nikola Gasoski.

The intensification of the Yugoslav crisis, has left the federal government, as learned, increasingly less compact, although it was considered to be an example of integrity only up until recently. Informed circles indicate that the further dissipation combined with the aggravation of the situation in the country could jeopardize its survival as well.

For this reason Prime Minister Markovic is not abandoning the biggest reconstruction of the government and although many doubt he will encounter the understanding of the republics, he is endeavoring to ensure a cabinet which will have the confidence of competent persons in the country and in the world. The prime minister's concept is for each of the six republics to provide one to two representatives in the federal government cabinet. He has also suggested that one of the proposed representatives be from the ranks of the respective republican opposition parties.

The government's central aims are to engage in the cessation of war conflicts, a successful outcome of the peace conference, ensuring basic functions of the system during the negotiations on the future of Yugoslavia and ensuring foreign economic aid to prevent economic collapse and social poverty. The social product of the country is estimated to be less by 19 to 20 billion dollars.

These aims are without a doubt the prime minister's most important trumps for the reconstruction of the government since, as he put it yesterday at a news conference, each republic will have to think hard about whether it should have its representatives in the federal government cabinet.

Federal Defense Ministry Rejects Croatian Claims

LD1509154591 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1352 GMT 15 Sep 91

[Text] Belgrade, 15 September (TANJUG)—"Croatian Defense Minister Luka Bebic, at a news conference held in Zagreb today, stated in his already well-known style

and manner numerous lies about the alleged surrender and occupation of a large number of barracks and facilities of the Yugoslav Peoples' Army (JNA)," a statement from the Information Department of the Federal Secretariat for National Defense says.

This is a matter, as in previous cases, of lies stated for the umpteenth time, because individual cases of desertion are being transformed into hundreds of cases of desertion. These numbers, the statement points out, also include all those individuals and smaller groups who were victims of planned terrorist hostage-taking, forced detention, and illegal arrests in public places.

Information, it is added, on the alleged occupation of a large number of military facilities is portrayed in the same way. In fact, it is a matter of facilities which the JNA had already previously abandoned, and of cultural and health facilities which they are attacking and plundering in their normal way, like bandits. All this is designed to calm their own public, because of the defeats which the armed formations of the Republic of Croatia are suffering, and to avoid their own responsibility, the statement stresses.

Croatia, Slovenia, Bosnia Airspace Reopened

LD1509192691 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1900 GMT 15 Sep 91

[Excerpt] At 1858, the airspace covered by the area flight control center in Zagreb was reopened, the Ministry of Information of the Republic of Slovenia announced, citing information from the Federal Flight Control Administration. [passage omitted]

International

Croatian Information Minister on Arms Embargo

LD1509093491 Budapest Kossuth Radio Network in Hungarian 0650 GMT 15 Sep 91

[Interview with Croatian Information Minister Branko Salaj by journalist Hajnal Mate; place and date not given; Salaj speaks in English with superimposed Hungarian translation—live or recorded]

[Text] [Mate] What is your opinion about the allegation that Hungary transported arms to Croatia?

[Salaj] We are aware of the statement of the National Defense Ministry in Belgrade, and I have to say we were surprised that they made such a serious accusation public. We consider this allegation completely unfounded and firmly reject it. In my opinion, one of the possible explanations for this is that recently the Army bombed Osijek airport, where they destroyed several out-of-use agricultural planes. They probably wanted to explain away this action of theirs with something.

[Mate] At a recent news conference, you spoke very pessimistically, saying that Yugoslavia was becoming more and more isolated from Europe.

[Salaj] Yes, unfortunately the battles are becoming heavier and often spread into Bosnia's territory, too. Europe and the United States now unequivocally hold Serbia and the Yugoslav Army responsible for the civil war, and sometimes they also declare that they condemn the Serbian policy which aims at occupying greater territories. It is good to hear all this, but unfortunately this does not help Croatia's present critical situation. I would return to the very first question. The arms supply embargo, which aims to ensure peace in Yugoslavia, in reality hurts Croatia most of all, because the Yugoslav Army is very well stocked with weapons, and they can also provide ample supplies to the nonofficial Serbian troops. On the other hand, the Croatian troops are very badly equipped; they have old fashioned weapons. Thus the ban on arms supply ultimately helps the Yugoslav Army against us.

[Mate] In Croatia, President Tudjman is often accused of not being decisive enough, since he is still not decreeing complete mobilization. Others, however, fault him for sacrificing young soldiers in the war. How old is the youngest soldier?

[Salaj] None of them is under 18. Unfortunately, there are a great many young volunteers, and the main problem is that we do not have adequate weapons with which to equip them. As for the Slovenian allegation that we are sending children into the war, I could say it was easier for them to fight without greater sacrifices, for in Slovenia in practice there were no big battles. Also, over 260,000 weapons were confiscated from Croatia in the period after the first democratic elections, and with this, they deprived us for a time of the possibility of territorial defense. Our arms stock purchased from abroad only compensated to a small degree for this loss.

[Mate] Do you not consider it strange that while peace talks are underway in The Hague, in Yugoslavia they are talking about how they can buy weapons?

[Salaj] Various peace talks have been underway for a long time, and the cease-fire command has so far never been adhered to.

[Mate] According to the latest news, the Army has also launched attacks on the coastal strip. What is the aim of these, in your opinion?

[Salaj] It is a fact that the Army is now advancing towards Dalmatia and is trying to cut off the link with the coast. I do not know whether they will manage to occupy this territory, but this aim is obvious. Everything is possible.

Reportage on Downed Air Force Aircraft

Downed By Missile

LD1609112991 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1059 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] Belgrade, 16 September, (TANJUG)—One aircraft of the Yugoslav Air Force was shot down this morning near the Hungarian border, a TANJUG journalist has learned from reliable sources.

Croatian radio reported this morning that a dogfight took place between the Yugoslav and Hungarian Air Forces and that two Yugoslav jets had been shot down.

Sources close to the Air Force and Anti-Air Defense Command say that there was no dogfight between the Hungarian and Yugoslav Air Forces. The Yugoslav jet was shot down by a ground-to-air missile, according to these sources.

The downed aircraft, accompanied by another military jet that was shot down, was flying a reconnaissance sortie over the border outpost of Donji Miholjac, 50 kilometers northeast of Osijek. Due to poor weather conditions, it was impossible to establish whether the missile that hit the jet had been fired from the Croatian or Hungarian side.

Those in the know say that the location where the jet came down is being searched. It is not known whether the pilot managed to eject.

The military sources are also denying today's reports by Croatian radio on the bombardment of Zadar. They say that Yugoslav Air Force jets destroyed the Croatian television transmitter near Bokanac and that they did not fire on that town.

Hungary Defends Air Space

LD1609132891 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1200 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] It should be noted that the federal Air Force attempted to foil the attack by [Croatian] guardsmen and police against the watchtower complexes on the Yugoslav-Hungarian border. It failed in its attempt because two Galeb fighters and a MiG-21 were shot down and one helicopter was forced to make an emergency landing. The Hungarian Army also took part in defending its air space because the military jets were overflying the area. I should add that a sizeable amount of weapons was seized at the watchtower complexes.

'Alleged' Hungarian Air Battle Being Investigated

LD1609152291 Budapest Kossuth Radio Network in Hungarian 1400 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The Yugoslav Air Force Command has no knowledge about an alleged air battle between Yugoslav and Hungarian aircraft. According to a Belgrade report, an investigation is being carried out as to whether the missile which shot down a Yugoslav plane northeast of Osijek was launched from Croatian or Hungarian territory.

Slovenia Supports de Michelis, Genscher Statement

LD1509184791 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1732 GMT 15 Sep 91

[Text] Ljubljana, Sept 15 (TANJUG)—The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Yugoslav Republic of Slovenia today upheld a joint statement on the Yugoslav crisis and the war in Croatia made by the foreign ministers of Italy and Germany, Hans-Dietrich Genscher and Gianni de Michelis.

The ministry said it also supported the part of the statement concerning "the necessity of a coordinated treatment of the right to self-determination and the principle of full protection of the rights of ethnic minorities".

"We have always urged the protection which would be coordinated with European standards and we are convinced that the Republic of Croatia is prepared to ensure such standards", it added.

The ministry viewed as especially important the demand of de Michelis and Genscher for "the withdrawal of Yugoslav People's Army units to barracks".

Croatian Minister Protests Van Den Broek's Remarks

LD1509173791 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1513 GMT 15 Sep 91

[Text] Zagreb, September 15 (TANJUG)—Foreign Minister of the Yugoslav Republic of Croatia Zvonimir Separevic on Sunday protested over last night's statement by president of the European Community's Council of Ministers, Dutch Foreign Minister Hans van den Broek accusing Croatia of obstructing the peace process.

Broek 'equilizes [as received] Croatia, which defends itself, Serbia, which attacks, and the Yugoslav Army, which is in between them, in a zone of ostensible protection,' said Separevic.

'This is inadmissable,' Separevic told a press conference on Sunday.

'Croatia welcomes the observer mission and its extension, but also requests from the E.C. to consider other measures, including international intervention, in case the ceasefire is not established,' said Separevic.

The Croatian foreign minister urged a speedy international recognition of Croatia (and Slovenia), because that alone could 'open doors for full internationalization of the conflict and an end of the aggression.'

Defense Secretary Says Not in Contact With Mesic

LD1309161191 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1326 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Text] Belgrade, 13 Sep (Tanjug)—The office of Army General Veljko Kadijevic, the federal secretary for national defense, delivered the following statement to TANJUG:

"In his statement to Hungarian radio in response to an SSNO (Federal Secretariat for National Defense) report on new arms deliveries from Hungary to the Republic of Croatia, Stjepan Mesic, president of the SFRY Presidency, made, according to the media, the following statement:

"Last night Gen. Kadijevic informed me about it and I warned him not to release the statement before checking it. I was amazed that he nevertheless did so in an attempt to deceive the public."

In response, the office of the Federal Secretary for National Defense wishes to inform the public that in the last ten days, Army Gen. Veljko Kadijevic has not been in any contact with Mr. Stjepan Mesic nor has he discussed with him the infiltration of arms from Hungary into Croatia—for which reliable evidence exists—or anything else."

Defense Minister Denies Telling Mesic About Arms

LD1309173791 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1529 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Text] Belgrade, September 13 (TANJUG)—President of the Yugoslav Presidency Stjepan Mesic and Yugoslav defence minister, General of the Army Veljko Kadijevic have not contacted "in the past ten days or so," Kadijevic's cabinet said on Friday.

This was in effect a denial of Mesic's statement to Hungarian radio, carried also by some Yugoslav papers, that Kadijevic had informed Mesic about a Yugoslav Defence Ministry statement on fresh arms deliveries from Hungary to the Yugoslav Republic of Croatia.

The cabinet said that the media had quoted Mesic as saying: "General Kadijevic informed me about that last night and I forbade the public release of the statement without previous checking. I was appalled that he did it nevertheless, thus deceiving the public."

The cabinet said that General Kadijevic "has not contacted with Mr Stjepan Mesic over the past ten days or so, i.e. has not exchanged a single word with him, not only concerning arms deliveries from Hungary to Croatia, of which there is solid evidence, but nothing whatsoever."

Croatia

Zagreb Confirms Capture of YPA General, Officers

LD1409140491 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1200 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Text] As we have already reported, during yesterday's battles waged in the Banija and Kordun area, Croatia's defense forces forced an Army helicopter to land and on this occasion they captured Major General Milan Aksentijevic and another five [as heard] officers of the Yugoslav Army from the Fifth Military District Command Headquarters. As the Information Ministry of the Republic of Croatia reported yesterday, two armored Army vehicles and other equipment were also captured in the course of the same action.

We have learned from reliable sources that General Aksentijevic was aboard the helicopter that was flying unannounced after the deadline of the ultimatum set by President of the Yugoslav Presidency Stipe Mesic for the Army to withdraw to its barracks. It was flying from the direction of Slunj, where the Fifth Military District stationed its command post and where the criminal onslaughts by the Yugoslav soldiers on Croatia are planned.

Members of the Croatian National Guard opened fire on the helicopter. One bullet hit its cockpit while another hit its fuel tank. The helicopter had to make an emergency landing near Tusilovic where there is one of the main strongholds of the Serbian terrorists in this area near a hotel called Krajina. This name itself bears symbolic significance, while at the same time it reveals where the generals and officers were hoping to find refuge and protection. Two Army armored vehicles, one Pitzgauer truck, and a guard detachment numbering 21 soldiers set out to escort them back on their way to Zagreb. Thanks to operational surveillance, the military column was intercepted and taken prisoner. It is stressed that no resistance was offered and not a single bullet was fired. This suggests that the morale and conduct of the Army in the field is somewhat different from that applied on those occasions when unprotected civilian targets are being attacked from aircraft, tanks, and barracks.

Let us mention the name of the captured officers. In addition to the aforementioned General Aksentijevic, also captured are Colonel Beroljub Filipovic, Lieutenant Colonel Franjo Patacko, Senior Captains Zoran Babic and Veljko Lekar, Lieutenants Dragan Music and Jovica Popovic, and Sergeant Slavoljub Daric.

Proceedings To Be Brought Against Aksentijevic

LD1409182291 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1720 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Text] Zagreb, 14 Sep (TANJUG)—Milan Brezak, Croatian assistant minister of internal affairs, said this

evening at a news conference in the (Croatian) Assembly that "the mission of Major General Milan Aksentijevic was one in a series of Yugoslav Army activities aimed at endangering the constitutional order of the Republic of Croatia." Brezak claims that "material was found on Aksentijevic indicating that he was directly involved in activities designed to threaten the constitutional order of the Republic of croatia," and as a result "criminal proceedings" are now going on against him.

In a reply to a journalist's question as to whether there might be an exchange of Maj. Gen. Aksentijevic for more than 300 members of the Croatian National Guard Corps (ZNG), Brezak said that "such decisions have not yet been made."

General Not To Be Released

LD1509183291 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1716 GMT 15 Sep 91

[Text] Rome, September 15 (TANJUG)—Croatian Prime Minister Vlado Greguric said that Croatia would not release Major-General Milan Aksentijevic or the other captured officers of the Yugoslav Army because they are "very important items for exchange."

In an interview to the Turin daily LA STAMPA, Greguric thus revealed what the Croatian authorities intend to do with the captured major-general and the other officers.

Members of the Croatian police forces kidnapped Major-General Aksentijevic, seven other officers and 13 soldiers on Saturday. The military authorities have asked for their release and that the Croatian side say where they are being held.

Document Found on Aksentijevic

LD1409202591 Zagreb HTV Television in Serbo-Croatian 1730 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Text] This afternoon you can see and read a strictly confidential document which was found in the briefcase of captured Major General Milan Aksentijevic. The document, signed by Colonel Vuk Obradovic, was sent from the office of the federal secretary for national defense to the commands of the 1st, 3d and 5th Army Districts, to the Command of the Naval District, and to the Air Force Command. The document says:

Please find enclosed the arbitrarily issued order of SFRY Presidency President Stjepan Mesic, which is in no way binding on members of the Yugoslav People's Army, and also a reply from the federal secretary for national defense which was sent to the SFRY Presidency in connection with the aforementioned order.

On the screen you can see the signature of so-called ice-cold Lieutenant Colonel General Zivota Avramovic, who sent the document to all Army units and institutions, so that all Army members may know about that.

Overall it remains unclear why the Army should class such documents as strictly confidential, in a situation which shows that the Army is leading a completely independent policy in which only greater Serbian interests matter.

Bebic Claims Over 400 Army Desertions

LD1509165191 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1456 GMT 15 Sep 91

[Text] Zagreb, September 15 (TANJUG)—Defence Minister of Croatia Luka Bebic today said that "more than 400 soldiers and officers of the so-called Yugoslav Army surrendered yesterday and last night after an appeal by the government and the Defence Ministry" to the authorities in that republic.

Speaking at a special press conference in Zagreb, Bebic specified that the surrendered soldiers and officers were from some military warehouses and barracks in Ploce, southern Dalmatia, Gospic and Perusic in the region of Lika, barracks near Dugo Selo outside Zagreb, two barracks in Osijek (the administrative center of Slavonia), and the Army club in Slavonska Pozega, in this eastern Croatian region.

Bebic said that several soldiers and officers also surrendered from military warehouses in Zagreb and in Sopnice near Sesvete, a Zagreb suburb. "In this way several thousand tonnes of different weaponry has fallen into the hands of the Croatian defence," Bebic said.

Two Navy vessels were sunk off Ploce in a conflict. "In another Adriatic port, the Croatian flag has been hoisted on the first Yugoslav Navy vessel in the Adriatic," Bebic said.

Bebic further said that the Croatian armed forces did not suffer any losses during the "surrender of soldiers and officers from the barracks."

In the meantime, TANJUG learned from reliable sources that Yugoslav Air Force planes this morning destroyed some trucks that were left outside the Army warehouse in Ploce. The trucks were driven there last night in order to transport weapons after the armed action which began at 20:00 hrs local time yesterday.

The trucks were outside the attacked warehouse near Ploce, in a bay along the road to Gradac and Bacina Lakes.

After the trucks were destroyed, the Air Force planes did not open fire over this region any more, the sources claim.

However, a report by Croatian radio at 11:00 hrs today said that "the outskirts of a western suburb of Ploce, where the Army warehouse is located, are being bombed from warships off Ploce and aircraft which are constantly flying over the city."

Government Urges Federal Troops to Desert

LD1409105791 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1000 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Text] The Government of the Republic of Croatia has addressed the following call to soldiers, officers, and civilians in the Yugoslav Army as well as to Army units and institutions:

Do not side with the attacker in the war being waged against Croatia today. Decline to serve hatred and violence, desert the army of aggression. You have been drawn into a senseless war, a war in the course of which you are being forced to commit crimes against the civilian population and people around you. In this war your right to peace and happiness is threatened, your human dignity is threatened, and so is your life itself.

All those who register with the authorities of the Republic of Croatia are guaranteed personal security. Report to the first police patrol you encounter or to any police station, National Guard unit, or municipal Secretariat for Defense where you will be welcomed and protected. Officers are given a guarantee that they will retain their rank, pay, and other material benefits. We are calling on the military units and institutions in the territory of the Republic of Croatia to make themselves available to the competent state bodies.

Zagreb Radio: Croatian Forces Take Koprivnica

LD1609091691 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 0835 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] According to an announcement by the crisis headquarters of the Koprivnica municipality, the Croatian banner has been hoisted for the first time on a military facility in the territory of the Koprivnica municipality. In a coordinated operation launched by workers of the police station of Koprivnica, the Soderica border outpost near Koprivnica, on the Hungarian border, passed this morning into the hands of the workers of Koprivnica. At that time, 18 soldiers and one officer surrendered without a shot being fired. This surrender enabled Croatia's Defense Forces to acquire a certain amount of weapons and equipment. The outpost is controlled by the workers of the Koprovnica police station.

The Serbian army of occupation opened fire on border police at 0100 at the border crossing near the Donji Miholjac outpost. The same happened to the border outposts of [word indistinct] and Moslavina. The Croatian Defense Forces returned fierce fire. All the officers and soldiers of the border outposts of Valjevo and Moslavina surrendered, as well as the officers and soldiers of the border outpost of Donji Miholjac.

In the course of their numerous sorties, Air Force aircraft entered the airspace of the Republic of Hungary, so the Hungarian Armed Forces downed two aircraft of the Yugoslav Army.

YPA Units Say Living Conditions 'Unbearable'

LD1409132391 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1212 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Text] Belgrade, 15 Sep (TANJUG)—The First Military District Command wishes to inform the public that the living and working conditions of the Yugoslav People's Army [YPA] units on the part of the territory of the Republic of Croatia that is within the zone of responsibility of the First Military District have become unbearable. Completely unjustified attacks by armed forces of the Republic of Croatia on members, units, and establishments of the YPA are being stepped up from day to day. During last night alone, intensive gun and artillery fire was opened five times on military establishments in Osijek. Six members of the YPA were injured and the garrison command and YPA club buildings were demolished. Two military hangars were set on fire, as well as the barracks reception office and two noncombat motor vehicles. The Vukovar barracks also came under fire for several hours during which one private was injured and one motor vehicle burned out.

The blockade of all military establishments in Osijek, Slavonski Brod, Slavonska Pozega, and other garrisons has been stepped up, while electricity and water supplies and telephone lines to detached buildings have been cut off.

Food supplies are being jeopardized and made difficult by all possible means and methods. Vukovar is in a particularly difficult situation. The YPA unit stationed there since 25 August is completely isolated. Officers and privates have been without bread for 20 days now and are surviving on dry meals from their war reserves. These reserves were exhausted today.

The Federal Secretariat for National Defense, the Command of the First Military District, and all other subordinate commands in this district have done everything they can to try to resolve these problems without the use of force and through agreements with the authorities in the Republic of Croatia. Unfortunately, all of our attempts were unsuccessful. Even when certain agreements had been made, the Croatian side did not observe them.

The efforts of the EC observer mission—whose members were directly convinced on several occasions that the YPA units had not been the cause of armed conflicts and that their living conditions were extremely unfavorable—are being ignored.

In such circumstances the First Military District Command has two options: The first is that it should leave its units on the Croatian territory to starve to death, and the second is that it should take resolute steps to save them. Proceeding from its responsibility for security and for the lives of the people under its command, the First Military District Command decided in favor of the second option. There was no other solution.

The action that we started at 1330 with the approval of our superior command has been forced, its aim is restricted and its character is defensive and basically humanitarian, the First Military District Command announces.

2-Hour Air Raid Warning in Zagreb Reported

LD1509202691 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1806 GMT 15 Sep 91

[Text] Zagreb, 15 Sep (TANJUG)—Sometime before 1930 this evening in Zagreb, after an air raid warning lasting two hours, the all clear was given, signifying the end of the danger of an air attack.

Citizens of the Croatian capital are leaving their air raid shelters, and Croatian radio is constantly repeating information from the city's crisis headquarters about how to act in these dangerous circumstances. It is stressed that the possibility of new alarms is not excluded, so citizens are being called upon to cooperate.

Zagreb Radio Roundup on Airstrikes in Croatia

LD1509231691 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 2200 GMT 15 Sep 91

[Text] Jets of the so-called Yugoslav Army swooped low over several towns and other locations in Croatia today. In a statement on important security developments in the crisis areas, the Croatian Ministry of Internal Affairs notes that at about 1200 an aircraft bombed the police station in Lovinac [northeast of Zadar]. Two hours later, the village was bombed again and also came under mortar fire.

According to the statement, at 1400 and 1610, two jets flew low and bombed an agricultural airport near Osijek. At the same time, a mortar attack was launched. At about 1700, fire was opened from the barracks in Varazdin at blockade points surrounding it. Between 1730 and 1830, seven mortar attacks were carried out from the barracks in Varazdin. One civilian was killed and another injured. Two military aircraft dropped four bombs on Varazdin, damaging several agricultural planes.

At 1630, an air raid on Senj began. Fifteen minutes later, a jet bombed the approach road to Metkovic. At 1820, two MiGs and one Jastreb fired missiles at the Zutica oil field near Ivanic-grad. The maintanance depot is on fire.

At about 1840, the Federal Army's tank and infantry forces attacked Otocac, the Croatian Ministry of Internal Affairs says in conclusion.

AFP Reports Federal Army Set To Take Zadar

AB1509202691 Paris AFP in English 2008 GMT 15 Sep 91

[Excerpt] Zadar, Yugoslavia, Sept 15 (AFP) - The Yugoslav Federal Army prepared to seize the Adriatic port city of Zadar Sunday [15 September] after Croat forces tried and failed to capture army barracks inside the city.

"The aggressors are at the city gates and we can expect a bloodbath," Mayor Ive Livljanic told AFP. He spoke amid efforts both to defend Zadar and send old people, women and children to safety.

As he spoke, the outskirts of this city of 74,000 were being shelled by Federal Army artillery and Serbian nationalists from the rebel enclave of Krajina inland. The village of Podgradina, 22 kilometres (13 miles) to the north was in flames.

Serbian units were already in the villages to the east of Zadar from where they used mortars to bombard other Croatian villages.

Without weapons to respond, Croat National Guards went ahead and drew the city's first, very weak, line of defence at Policnik, less than 20 kilometers (12 miles) from Zadar.

"All we have is Kalashnikovs, so...," said a former member of the French Foreign Legion, indicating his assault rifle. He spoke in a house, turned into a command post, perched on a bluff overlooking a dry, uneven plain. Nearly all the surrounding villages had been abandoned or fallen defenceless, like dominoes, to the Serbs. Within 48 hours a 50-square-kilometer (20-square- mile) no-man's land had appeared.

The Army secured control of the main Zagreb highway by using six self-propelled 122 mm and 105 mm guns to take the big, red steel bridge at Maselinca.

Another road had been closed by Serb fighters. The two remaining roads out of the city could be easily cut, one at a small bridge leading to Pag island to the northwest, the other to the south.

In Zadar itself, Croats tried for half an hour to capture one of six Army barracks before giving up the attempt. Radio Zadar and cars mounted with loudhailers broadcast appeals for calm, saying the attack was the result of a local initiative taken without coordination with Croatian National Guard headquarters. No casualties were reported.

The attempt reflected the high tension felt everywhere in this historic city, the second largest in Dalmatia and situated across the Adriatic from Ancona. Hundreds of people have escaped the war by crossing the sea to that Italian destination. Saturday night 350 arrived there by ship.

"Europe must come to our aid immediately," the mayor said, "I know those barbarians, they are going to bomb us the way the Germans did during the war."

Barricades were thrown up and a curfew was in force from 11 p.m.

In just a few days, Serbian insurgents from Krajina have broken through to the coastal village of Seline at the end of the Velebitski canal. Their leaders declared publicly they intended to conquer Zadar.

The breakthrough by the Serbs and the Army cut the 1,780-kilometer (1,100-mile) Croatian shoreline with its 1,000 islands in almost equal halves.

Zadar, Croatia's third port after Rijecka and Split, was bracing for imminent attack.

"It is perfectly clear that the Army and Serbian groups are going to attack, doubtless from the east," said the National Guard deputy commander, a former Federal Army lieutenant colonel. [passage omitted]

Croatian Navy Reinstating, Arming Ships

LD1309162291 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1500 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Excerpt] "The Croatian Navy will reinstate some of the ships which belonged to the former Territorial Defence. The ships will be equipped and armed and with them the Croatian navy will begin its battle for the liberation of the Adriatic and Croatia. So far, in the territory of Split alone, over 250 naval officers of the former Yugoslav Navy have signed up, making themselves available to our new navy," said Admiral Sveto Letica, newly appointed commander of the Croatian navy, at a news conference today.

Admiral Letica was convinced that Croatia would have better battleships very soon. He is hoping that most of the remaining former Yugoslav Navy officers will join the Croatian navy, serving the Croatian people and Croatia. The seat of the Croatian Navy will be in Split, and battleships will soon be sailing under its flags because, stressed Letica, "a considerable number of ships now belonging to the Yugoslav Navy are partly Croatian property. Croatia invested in them and has the right to use them."

'Occupying Army' Takes Over Split Airport

LD1309231791 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 2200 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Text] Since 1930 last night, Split airport in Kasteli has been closed to all traffic. Positions in the airport guided by units of the police and the National Guard Corps [ZNG] have been taken over by units of the occupying army from the Divulje Barracks, which is very close to the airport. According to information from the ZNG headquarters, the takeover of some of the airport positions by the Yugoslav Army happened following the issuing of an ultimatum by the Air Force commander in the Divulje barracks, Jovan Strugar, who requested that all barracks in the Split area continue to be supplied with water and electricity. The ZNG headquarters reports that the condition for the supply of electricity and water to the barracks is the withdrawal of the tanks and the cessation of shelling of Croatian forces positions in the hinterland of Skradin and around Benkovac and Zadar by tanks and cannons. Only when the Yugoslav Army accedes to this will drinking water and electricity be supplied to the barracks. There is no way that we can give water from Croatian springs, while they shed Croatian blood, Luka Canko, commander of the Split ZNG, stresses.

Electricity, Water Cut to Barracks

LD1409191391 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1711 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Text] Zagreb, 14 Sep (Tanjug)—"We took measures today to blockade barracks—cutting off electricity and water supplies, and cutting off telephone connections—throughout the whole territory of Croatia," Dr. Zdravko Tomac, deputy prime minister of Croatia, said this evening at a news conference in the (Croatian) Assembly. Tomac cited as a basis for this decision the conclusions of the republican government of 31 August, which was conducted by Franjo Tudjman, president of the republic, who also signed the appropriate orders.

"We took these measures to exert pressure on those forces in the Army, Yugoslavia, and the world that could influence the resolution of the crisis in a peaceful way and so that the aggression against Croatia is halted," Tomac said. He pointed out that "by these measures, which we will not refrain from, regardless of counter measures, we are requesting that the Army accept its obligations arising out of the fact that the SFRY Presidency, as the supreme commander, signed a decision to the effect that it be withdrawn from war operations." In the event of the Army accepting this, these measures shall cease to be operative, Tomac said. "If the Army does not accept this the measures will continue, and if other countermeasures are taken, which it can take if warlike factions win through, then we shall have to take other measures as well," Tomac says.

"Croatia has not declared war but only adopted the necessary measures to defend itself more effectively," Deputy Prime Minister Tomac said.

French Papers: Foreign Mercenaries Fighting

LD1409211191 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1647 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Text] Paris, September 14 (TANJUG)—The European Democratic Union has warned that it would 'recognize Slovenia and Croatia if the agreed ceasefire continues to be ignored in Yugoslavia's battlefields.'

In a statement which representatives of some 30 Social Democratic Parties, Liberals and the European Right which form this Union adopted at the end of their two-day session late last night, they promised similar support also to Yugoslav Republics which have not yet officially declared themselves for secession.

It is therefore assessed in Paris today that the 'Democratic Union is actually for the partitioning of Yugoslavia.'

The united European right, whose goal is to be a balance to the Socialist International, also urged that representatives of Vojvodina and Kosovo take part in the future work of the peace conference for Yugoslavia which is underway in The Hague.

The influential French daily LA LIBERATION today confirmed the sensational discovery of the daily LE MONDE that a black legion of foreign mercenaries was fighting in Croatia shoulder to shoulder with the Croatian National Guardsmen.

A special correspondent of this daily visited the town of Sisak, some 50 km southeast of Zagreb, and spoke with French members of this legion, who he claims 'belong to the organization of young French fascists.'

Bebic, Vekic, Salaj News Conference

LD1309172891 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 0905 GMT 13 Sep 91

[News conference with Defense Minister Luka Bebic, Internal Affairs Minister Ivan Vekic, and Croatian Information Minister Branko Salaj by foreign and domestic reporters and unidentified moderator in Zagreb—live]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Moderator] I invite Croatian Information Minister Branko Salaj to take the floor.

[Salaj] I would like to acquaint you with one of the measures... [corrects himself] one of the conclusions adopted by the Croatian Government at its closed session yesterday. As you know, two weeks ago at its session on 31 August, the government decided to ask the members of the Federal Executive Council from Croatia as well as officials in all other federal institutions, including the diplomatic service—regardless of the fact that they have not been elected to the relevant bodies in a formal way as representatives of the Republic of Croatia—to make themselves available to the Republic of Croatia. It was said at the time that the purpose of their remaining in the federal bodies would be judged on their usefulness in the efforts to resolve the crisis and in the disassociation process. In other words, we left the door slightly open to see what the outcome would be of the talks we were preparing ourselves for at the time.

The government has now decided that the military, political, and economic situation in the Republic of Croatia has deteriorated considerably. It also notes that the EC declaration on Yugoslavia clearly names the aggressor and that a cease-fire agreement has been signed, which contains the condition that the Army withdraw to its barracks. Despite the peace conference and the declaration in which the protagonists pledge not to use force, aggression by the Army and Serbs in Croatia has continued with increased intensity, causing enormous human casualties and damage.

On several occasions the Croatian Government has asked the Federal Government to take measures to stop the aggression against Croatia and to protect the lives of its citizens and the destruction of private and public property. However, the Croatian Government notes, the federal institutions either failed to take the necessary measures or in some cases even acted in support of the aggression. The government has concluded that these institutions share the blame for the aggression against Croatia and that there is no justification for keeping Croatian officials sent there by the republic's bodies in federal institutions.

In view of this, the Government of the Republic of Croatia calls on our officials to contact as soon as possible the secretariat of the Government of the Republic of Croatia in order to resolve in the most favorable way their status in the Republic of Croatia in view of their professional and human qualities. Thank you.

[Moderator] Can we have your questions. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] About 10 days ago you announced offensive actions in Baranja—did they take place? The second question: We heard yesterday that representatives of the observer mission claimed that Croatian forces had attacked them in Okucani. Do you have any concrete information on this, whether their statement is realy true? Thank you.

[Bebic] Offensive actions are under way in Baranja and they are implemented in accordance with the tactical plans we have worked out ourselves and they are in progress. [sentence as heard] Very soon they will be felt, and I think they are already being felt. Let me mention that the Croatian defense forces have not left Baranja and our armed forces are continuing to fight heroically near Bilje. [passage omitted]

Let me comment on these peace missions Europe keeps sending to ease its conscience for its inactivity so far and for abandoning Croatia and blocking its armaments—in order to establish at least some sort of technological defense balance—this only goes to show to what extent this is inefficient and to what extent, in fact, it ultimately weakens the Croatian defense. We of course still want and welcome the EC initiatives, but ever since the EC got involved in these peace missions, I think that this has resulted in Croatia being denied a possibility to obtain the necessary technology and armament, while the EC failed to prevent the Serbo-communist army from doing what it is now doing in Croatia. I do not accuse the European Community of anything, I am only presenting you with the the facts and with the consequences of, how shall I say, the manipulation of the Croatian defense, which has placed its trust in these EC guarantees each time only to find itself decieved on every single occasion

because no effective results had been achieved on the opposite side. [passage omitted]

[Vujevic] Dunja Vujevic of VECERNJI LIST. I would like to know whether Croatia intends to protest last night's statement by the EC observers who rejected Mr. Mesic's ultimatum, and also what the observers were doing in an Army helicopter.

[Vekic] I would first like to answer the last question. It seems to me... [changes thought] In fact I intended to stand up earlier to explain one thing with regard to Minister Bebic's reply. He was asked about the shooting of the helicopter that was carrying Ambassador Wijnaendts and our deputy interior minister. In fact, we cannot at this moment be completely sure as to who opened fire, because the police investigation is still under way. It is true they were flying over an area in which fighting had been going on, and it was the biggest helicopter the Army has. However, what the police investigation clearly showed was the helicopter was engaged in maneuvers that had nothing to do with landing on a previously arranged spot. That is clear so far. However, there are still a series of details missing that the police must clarify before we come to the final, correct answer. [passsage omitted]

[Reporter] I am not interested in further investigations. I am interested in whether it is customary, or whether a neutral observer mission has the right, to use the services of one of the warring sides; in this case, to use a means of transportation belonging to the Army. Finally, they did indeed accuse a Croatian, not taking into consideration the fact whether this Croatian, if indeed he is a Croatian, could fire on a helicopter with a simple gun, as he could not afford any other weapons.

[Vekic] With your permission, let us not keep repeating this question unnecessarily. Ladies and gentlemen, it must be made clear that the direction in which the helicopter was moving, the permitted route, the distribution of forces underneath, the type of weapons with which fire was opened on the helicopter, the range of the weapons which will serve to establish the distance, the direction of missiles, the penetrating power of missiles, and all other things, you will allow me, cannot be established within 24 hours to answer this question. One thing is certain: Below the helicopter, and on the left and right-hand sides, at whatever distance they may have been, there are at least three sides—the Army, terrorists, and the Croatian armed forces. [passage omitted]

We will liberate our country ourselves and prevent Europe's last remaining imperial power and Europe's neo-communist power from endagering Europe. And this will be the third time in the history of the Croatian people that this has been done. The first time was when we turned Genghis Khan back, the second when we turned the Turks back, and now, when we turn back these resurgent neo- Stalinists, who not only want to endanger us but also Europe, which is counting upon the whole thing collapsing by itself. But this will not happen. It will collapse owing to the courage of these men from Kostajnica, Vukovar, and the ones at the Maslenica bridge. Croatia will succeed in defending and forcing out the last Chetnik and the last Yugo-occupier from its territory, whether Europe wants it or not, and whether it adopts a friendly attitude to us or not. This is what remains for us to do. The Croatian people are ready for it. [passage omitted]

Serbia

Air Force Announces 18 Aircraft Destroyed

LD1509203291 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1752 GMT 15 Sep 91

[Text] Belgrade, 15 Sep (TANJUG)—According to the information department of the Air Force and the Air Defense Headquarters, the Air Force and Air Defense today carried out several attacks designed to prevent the Croatian Ministry of Internal Affairs forces and the National Guard Corps of Croatia from stealing weapons and engaging in arms smuggling from abroad. The attacks were on military ammunition and weapons' stores using commercial aircraft.

During the night of 14-15 September, the theft of ammunition and weapons from a storage facility of the Yugoslav Peoples' Army [YPA] in the village of Male Bare near Ploce was prevented by air attacks by the Air Force and Air Defense. In the process, 15 trucks loaded with these stolen resources, and the storage facility itself was destroyed as well.

Air attacks were carried out on commercial aircraft at the airports of Cepin (near Osijek), Varazdin, and Hvar, and 18 aircraft, which have taken part over the last few days in the smuggling of arms, were destroyed in the process—the public has already been informed about this.

Several successful air attacks on communications facilities in the broad area of Borovo and Gospic, as well as several flights over Zadar for the purpose of preventing attacks by the National Guards Coprs and the Ministry of Internal Affairs on barracks, were carried out with the purpose of unblocking the facilities of the [YPA] and the Air Force and Air Defense and of supporting forces of the territorial army, the statement says in conclusion.

Mesic Blamed for Kidnapping of General

LD1509134691 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1305 GMT 15 Sep 91

[Text] Belgrade, 15 September (TANJUG)—The terrorist kidnapping of Yugoslav People's Army (YPA) General Milan Aksentijevic is a direct consequence of Yugoslav State Presidency President Stjepan Mesic's unconstitutional orders, as Yugoslav Defence Ministry spokesman Colonel Milan Gvero said.

Croatian armed formations on Friday night damaged a YPA helicopter and forced it to land on Croatian territory. Major General Aksentijevic with a group of associates were in the helicopter. They were arrested and their command of the Fifth Army District has not so far had any contact with them.

Colonel Gvero said on Belgrade Televison last night that President Mesic, sitting in the office of the Croatian president, has usurped the constitutional authority of the Yugoslav president and outlawed all army officers who would not carry out his order on the army's withdrawal to the barracks.

The eight-man Yugoslav State Presidency is the collective supreme commander of the Yugoslav armed forces and Mesic represents Croatia in the body. Fierce fighting is going on in this Yugoslav republic between Croatian armed formations and armed members of the local Serbian minority population.

The Croatian authorities are accusing YPA of not being neutral in the clashes.

In an interview to Croatian Television (HTV) following the controversial order which has provoked violent reactions in yugoslavia, Mesic particularly mentioned Major-General Aksentijevic, the deputy commander of the Fifth Army District which covers parts of Croatian territory.

As Colonel Gvero said, top republican leaders in Croatia are provoking anarchy and organizing state terror and man hunts.

Military Position

LD1409151991 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1327 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Text] Belgrade, 14 Sep (TANJUG)—The information service of the 5th Military District has made the following announcement:

At about 1645 on 13 September 1991, in the region of the village of Cerovac, south of Karlovac, members of the National Guard of the Republic of Croatia opened fire on a Gazelle helicopter carrying Major General Milan Aksentijevic and a group of Yugoslav People's Army [YPA] officers who had been returning from an official task. On this occasion the helicopter was damaged and forced to land in the village of Tusilovic, on the Karlovac-Slunj road.

The MUP [Croatian Ministry of Internal Affairs] information—that the helicopter was taking part in combat activities in the Banija and Kordun region—is tendentious and completely false. Once the news about the forced landing of the helicopter from the Karlovac garrison was received, a motor vehicle and two combat armored vehicles were dispatched to pick up Gen. Aksentijevic and the other officers with him.

The damaged helicopter remained in the village of Tusilovic. The vehicles carrying Gen. Aksentijevic and the other officers arrived at a toll booth on the Karlovac-Zagreb freeway at 1910, after which all contact with them was denied by unknown persons.

Mr. Moric, assistant Croatian minister of internal affairs, told us that forces of the MUP had stopped the vehicle between Karlovac and Zagreb. On this occasion Gen. Aksentijevic, the seven officers, and 13 privates accompanying him had been arrested and taken to an unknown destination.

Owing to the intervention of Lt. Col. Gen. Andrija Raseta, deputy commander of the 5th Military District, the Croatian MUP confirmed the allegation about the abduction of Gen. Aksentijevic and a group of officers and privates, explaining that they had been detained for questioning by organs of the MUP.

In spite of a demand to disclose where the kidnapped YPA members are being kept and what they had been accused of, the MUP organs refused to give any information.

The behavior of the Croatian authorities' legal representatives only goes to show that the Republic of Croatia does not give any guarantees at all for the protection of basic human rights and liberties, which are even guaranteed by international legal documents.

This is yet another terrorist and criminal attack on YPA members on the territory of the Republic of Croatia, this time on high-ranking officers.

The 5th Military District Command is taking steps in order to gain the release of the YPA members, led by Gen. Aksentijevic, who had been brutally kidnapped and illegaly arrested. If this does not happen, may the public be informed that all responsibility for the consequences of such behavior will be borne by official organs of the Republic of Croatia, states the information service of the 5th Military District Command in conclusion.

Jovanovic Rejects Army Withdrawal Demand

LD1509231991 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2057 GMT 15 Sep 91

[Text] Belgrade, Sept 15 (TANJUG)—Foreign Minister of Yugoslavia's Republic of Serbia Vladislav Jovanovic said this evening the demand voiced by Italy and Germany that the Yugoslav Army withdraw from Croatia was "a misinterpretation of the ceasefire agreement".

The demand was made today by the two countries foreign ministers Gianni de Michelis and Hans-Dietrich Genscher.

In a statement to Belgrade television, Jovanovic recalled that the ceasefire agreement envisaged demobilization of the Croatian National Guard reserve force, after which the Army would withdraw to barracks but not leave the territory of Croatia.

He also said that the latest stand of E.C. Ministerial Council President Hans van den Broek that Croatia was to blame for the escalation of the conflict was "a logical consequence of the penetration of truth about who constantly instigates provocations and violates the agreement".

Zagreb, Zadar, Split Airports Cut Off

LD1409104991 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1000 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Text] Belgrade, 14 Sep (TANJUG)—The information service of the Air Force and Air Defense today announced that all units and establishments of the Air Force and Air Defense stationed at the Pleso (Zagreb), Zemunik (Zadar), and Divulje (Split naval base) airports, as well as other detached buildings have practically been cut off from the world since last night.

By order of the Croatian Republic leadership, all post and telecommunications and road links with these buildings have been blocked and their water and electricity supplies have also been cut off.

Work organizations in Croatia that used to supply the units with food and other vital articles have stopped all deliveries.

Various barriers guarded by armed groups of the Croatian National Guard, civilian members of the Croatian defense forces, and forces of the MUP [Croatian Interior Ministry] have been set up on the approaches to the Pleso, Zemunik, and Divulje airports.

Taking into account the latest developments and the difficult situation facing these units and detached buildings, the Air Force and Air Defense will take all available measures to unblock these buildings and ensure normal life and work for its units, the announcement stresses.

Serbian Renewal Movement Outlines Demands

LD1509065491 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2030 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Text] Novi Sad, Sept 14 (TANJUG)—The leader of the Serbian Renewal Movement (SPO), Serbia's biggest opposition party, today demanded that local elections in Yugoslavia's biggest republic be postponed "until the one-nation Serbian authorities are replaced with a national salvation government".

Speaking at a SPO rally in Novi Sad, the capital of Serbia's northern province of Vojvodina, Vuk Draskovic also demanded that the ruling Socialist Party of Serbia and the League of Communists—Movement for Yugoslavia be disbanded and all their property turned to social funds.

The other demands concerned an immediate replacement of some media executives, primarily in the POLITIKA EKSPRES daily and Politika and Belgrade televisions, which the SPO and opposition in general view as biased.

Meanwhile, the SPO proposed to the Serbian Assembly to adopt in an emergency procedure a draft constitutional law returning the citizenship and confiscated property to the members of the Royal Karadjordjevic family.

Five members of the Karadjordjevic dynasty ruled Serbia and Yugoslavia from 1804, when the founder of the dynasty, Karadjordje Petrovic (1768-1817) led the Serbs to the first uprising against the Turks.

After the victory of the Socialist revolution in 1945, members of the royal family were barred from returning to their homeland.

Crown Prince Aleksandar Karadjordjevic, 46, who lives in London, has announced his first visit to Yugoslavia to attend a mass for his grandfather, Alexander II Karadjordjevic, the monarch of the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes.

King Alexander was assassinated in 1934. The October 9 mass will be the first such ceremony in his honour held in Yugoslavia.

Ministry Says Croats Behind Belgrade Terrorist Acts

LD1409205391 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1934 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Text] Belgrade, Sept 14 (TANJUG)—The Ministry of Internal Affairs of Yugoslavia's Republic of Serbia this evening said the leadership of the Republic of Croatia and the republic's ruling Croatian Democratic Union Party were behind terrorist acts in Belgrade.

'They are trying to spread the war from Croatia to the territory of the Republic of Serbia', the Ministry said in a statement.

Three explosive devices were planted in Belgrade in August and September, and the manner in which these acts were carried out clearly point to their terrorist background, it added.

Nobody was hurt in the first explosion in the Sumadija Hotel on September 5. One person was seriously injured when a bomb exploded in the Russian Tsar restaurant on September 8. The third explosive device which went off in the Orac restaurant on September 13 injured one person.

Material damage in all three cases was extensive.

Another three cases of planting explosive devices were registered today.

'According to the information acquired so far, these events were not politically motivated, i.e. there is no terrorist background to them', the Serbian Ministry statement said.

It went on to say that nobody was hurt when a bomb exploded in a private cafe in downtown Belgrade last night.

Another explosive device which was activated this morning in a suburban disco club caused only material damage.

The third explosion took place this afternoon in a post office near the city's railway station 'because of careless handling of a parcel which contained detonators for defensive bombs'. A post office clerk was lightly injured.

'Investigation is under way about all these cases', the Ministry said.

Croat Group Claims Belgrade Explosions

LD1409144391 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1156 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Text] Belgrade, Sept 14 (TANJUG)—A 'commander' of the so far unknown 'Diversionist Group of the Croatian Liberation Movement' today told TANJUG by phone that they claim responsibility for the diversions in Belgrade.

A bomb exploded in the Belgrade restaurant Orac yesterday, seriously wounding one guest. This is the third blast in Belgrade restaurants in the past month. The perpetrators have still not been identified.

The anonymous 'commander', as he introduced himself, threatened fresh acts of sabotage if Anton Kikas together with the Ugandan plane and armaments and all captive members of the Croatian armed formations in Kostajina are not released and army activities on Osijek (eastern Slavonija) do not stop by 18:00 local time today.

The anonymous caller said the demands are being sent to the Yugoslav Defence Ministry and that they are not final, as he put it.

The 'commander' also said that his groups, which, as he said, are in the territory of the Yugoslav Republic of Serbia, are not acting within the Croatian National Guard, and are fighting for the independent state of Croatia.

Anton Kikas, a Canadian businessmen of Croatian origin, was arrested on August [word indistinct] by the military authorities at Zagreb's 'Pleso' Airport in a Ugandan aircraft which illegally brought 19 tonnes of weapons to the Yugoslav Republic of Croatia.

Air Force fighter planes of the Yugoslav People's Army (JNA) forced the Ugandan Boeing-707 to land on Zagreb Airport. The plane was seized and is now on Batajnica military airport in Belgrade, Kikas has been arrested.

After a five-day fighting spell in the Croatian town of Kostajnica, region of Banija, some 300 members of Croatian armed formations surrendered yesterday. Upon their request, they have been placed under the supervision of military authorities in the Yugoslav Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina.

Jovanovic Says Serbia Seeks Peace, End to War

LD1309183191 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1510 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Text] The Hague, Sept 13 (TANJUG)—Minister of Foreign Affairs of Serbia Vladislav Jovanovic said today that Serbia as a Yugoslav federal unit was interested in peace, stopping the war and the solution of the Yugoslav crisis. We see the solution of the crisis as based on principles which are well known and for which Serbia is fighting not only for itself, but it respects them in all the other republics, Jovanovic said after the plenary session of the conference on Yugoslavia here.

Although surrounded by many reporters Jovanovic refused to reveal the details of the two-day session here, stressing he wanted to observe Lord Carrington's call that all active participants refrain from commenting the work of the conference on Yugoslavia until concrete results are obtained. That is why Jovanovic answered only questions that are not directly linked to the protocol of the session.

Jovanovic said that the position of Serbia was that internal borders in Yugoslavia cannot be changed by force. "We have always condemend secession and the use of force, in all its forms," Jovanovic said and added: "That includes implicitly the use of force against the constitutional system of the federation." He considered that by not using force and by respecting the constitutional system, and at the same time by respecting the right to self-determination, all Yugoslav problems would be easily solved.

Asked to comment the statement of the President of the Presidency of SFRY, Stjepan Mesic about a military coup, Jovanovic said: "I do not agree with that. In the last two to three years we have heard at least 20, or even 50 stories and scenarios, announcing a military coup. None of them were true, and that means that they were merely expectations and wishes of some people to dramatize the situation in Yugoslavia. In this case too, I do not see any actions which could be qualified as putschist", Minister Jovanovic stressed. "The army is under the authority of the presidency of SFRY and it respects that authority."

"One should not forget that in the tradition of Yugoslavia and Serbia there have been no military coups. The army took the initiative only on two occasions and exclusively because state security was threatened. The first time was in 1903 and the second in 1941," Minister of Foreign Affairs of Serbia Vladislav Jovanovic said.

Army Breaks Blockade of Vukovar Barracks

LD1409232191 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 2221 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Text] Belgrade, 14 Sep (TANJUG)—A little after 2100 [1900 GMT] this evening units of the Yugoslav People's Army [YPA] managed to break a blockade of the barracks in Vukovar and roads leading to it, Belgrade radio has reported quoting its correspondent.

Armed formations of the Republic of Croatia had kept the Army barracks in Vukovar under an uninterrupted blockade for almost three months, and there were no bread deliveries for 20 days.

The operation to break the blockade of the barracks in Vukovar, as it was officially stated, was begun by YPA units at 1330 today.

Federal Defense Ministry Rejects Croatian Claims

LD1509154591 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1352 GMT 15 Sep 91

[Text] Belgrade, 15 September (TANJUG)—"Croatian Defense Minister Luka Bebic, at a news conference held in Zagreb today, stated in his already well-known style and manner numerous lies about the alleged surrender and occupation of a large number of barracks and facilities of the Yugoslav People's Army (JNA)," a statement from the Information Department of the Federal Secretariat for National Defense says.

This is a matter, as in previous cases, of lies stated for the umpteenth time, because individual cases of desertion are being transformed into hundreds of cases of desertion. These numbers, the statement points out, also include all those individuals and smaller groups who were victims of planned terrorist hostage-taking, forced detention, and illegal arrests in public places.

Information, it is added, on the alleged occupation of a large number of military facilities is portrayed in the same way. In fact, it is a matter of facilities the JNA had already abandoned, and of cultural and health facilities they are attacking and plundering in their normal way, like bandits. All this is designed to calm their own public because of the defeats the armed formations of the Republic of Croatia are suffering, and to avoid their own responsibility, the statement stresses.

Air Force Denies Occupation of Air Force Building

LD1509160891 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1525 GMT 15 Sep 91

[Text] Belgrade, 15 September (TANJUG)—The Information Department of the Air Force and Air Defense Headquarters, in response to the Croatian television report about the occupation of the Fifth Air Force Headquarters in Zagreb, has said that the only thing that is true is that the headquarters is, at this time, carrying out its tasks.

It is true that, accompanied by a large crowd of citizens that acted as a shield for the special forces of the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MUP), the long-since-abandoned headquarters building was occupied and 24 soldiers and officers, who were maintaining and guarding the headquarters, were kidnapped, says the statement from the Information Department of the Air Force and Air Defense Headquarters.

Bosnia-Hercegovina

Autonomous Region Deemed Unconstitutional

LD1309221791 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2039 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Text] Sarajevo, Sept 13 (TANJUG)—The government of Yugoslavia's republic Bosnia-Hercegovina said today that yesterday's decision on the constitution of the so-called Serbian Autonomous Region of Hercegovina was 'unconstitutional and illegal'.

A statement from the government session in Sarajevo recalls that the constitutional court of Bosnia-Hercegovina has not yet ruled on a similar decision on the forming of the predominantly Serbian-populated region of Krajina in the north of this central Yugoslav republic.

Serbs in the southern parts of neighbouring Croatia formed the so-called Serbian Autonomous Region of Krajina.

The region and its bodies are not recognized by Croatian authorities and the Federal Constitution.

The conclusions of the Bosnia-Hercegovina government were opposed by six ministers from the Serbian Democratic Party (SDS), which rallies Serbs in this multiethnic republic. The ministers argued that the government took a stand before hearing the ruling of the republican constitutional court on the issue.

Power in Bosnia-Hercegovina is shared among three national parties—the SDS, the Croatian Democratic Union (HDZ) and the Moslem Democratic Action Party (SDA). The SDA has a majority in the republican parliament.

Several SDA local committees today condemned the forming of the Serbian region.

Serbian Democrats Want Autonomy in Regions

LD1309204291 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2008 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Text] Banjaluka, Sept 13 (TANJUG)—The Serbian Democratic Party (SDS) in the region of Krajina in the Yugoslav Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina said today that the region would proclaim political autonomy if the national parties of Moslems and Croats 'create an independent state of Bosnia-Hercegovina'.

The creation of an independent and sovereign Bosnia-Hercegovina was announced several days ago by Republican Foreign Minister Haris Silajdzic during a visit to Vienna.

The SDS Committee for Krajina reacted with a statement in which it recalled that 'the Serbs want to live in a single Yugoslav state'.

If a sovereign Bosnia-Hercegovina state is proclaimed, the Serbs in Krajina will proclaim the Serbian Region of Bosanska Krajina, the statement said.

The SDS urges the division of Bosnia-Hercegovina into the Serbian, Moslem and Croat regions as the best way to avoid 'an all- out civil and religious war', it added.

The population of Bosnia-Hercegovina is 43 per cent Moslem, 32 per cent Serb and 17 per cent Croat. The republic is ruled by a coalition of national parties of the three ethnic groups.

It has been learned from unofficial sources that the leaders of the Democratic Action Party (SDA) and the SDS, the two strongest parties in parliament, have reached agreement that regions become state and legal units in Bosnia-Hercegovina.

The majority Serbian population in eastern Bosnia-Hercegovina yesterday proclaimed 'the Serbian Autonomous Region of Hercegovina'.

Macedonia

Foreign Minister on Hague Peace Conference

LD1409193191 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1750 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Text] Skopje, Sept 14 (TANJUG)—The international peace conference on Yugoslavia in The Hague is handicapped by the situation in the country in which politicians see politics as a game of all or nothing, Foreign Minister of Yugoslavia's southernmost Republic of Macedonia Denko Maleski told reporters here today.

Upon returning from The Hague, where he attended the conference chaired by Lord Carrington together with the foreign ministers of the other Yugoslav republics and Federal Foreign Minister Budimir Loncar, Maleski said that the proposals put forth by the Macedonian delegation 'are almost identical to Europe's stands'.

Last Sunday, Macedonia voted in a referendum for an independent and sovereign republic with the possibility of entering into an alliance of sovereign states of Yugoslavia.

Noting that 'Macedonia fully supports the peace conference', Maleski said that the conference could not be expected to produce results overnight 'when Yugoslav politicians have failed to do so for a long time'.